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[WITH A SUPPLEMENT, SIXPENCE.]

THE THREATENED IRRUPTION OF THE BARBARIANS.

"If," says Gibbon, "a line of separation were drawn between the civilised and the savage climates of the globe; between the inhabitants of cities, who cultivated the earth, and the hunters and shepherds, who dwelt in tents, Attila might have aspired to the title of supreme and sole monarch of the barbarians." The Emperor Nicholas, who is the Attila of the present era, is every inch as much a "monarch of the barbarians" as his great predecessor. St. Petersburg may vie in splendour with London and Paris, and its rich nobility may have as much taste for diamonds and the Opera, and all other costly luxuries, as the West of Europe, and Moscow may shine with a light reflected from the newer capital; but a state of barbarism, or, at best, of semi-civilisation, is characteristic of every other part of the immense Russian Empire. The King of the Muscovite barbarians resembles the famous King of the Huns in more respects than one. Though he does not bear so much of the Calmuc upon his face as the ancient hero so vividly portrayed by Gibbon, he has the Calmuc blood and the Calmuc mind of Attila, and evinces a determination to possess himself of Constantinople, which, if departed spirits take any interest in the affairs of this world, must rejoice the shade of the grim King from whom Nicholas has borrowed so much of his policy. Already the barbarians under his command are prepared for a descent upon the South and West. The ferocious swarms menace not only Europe but Civilisation. To the imagination of the timid, they seem about to issue from their boundless steppes and interminable forests, like the Huns and Vandals of old, to destroy Liberty and the Arts, to overthrow ancient kingdoms, and to spread themselves like a torrent of mire and blood over the fairest climates of Europe. Happily for the world, it is not so easy at the present time for a colossal barbarian to have his own

way, as it was in the days of Attila and Alaric. Though, by the operation of a law of nature, the hardy tribes of the North make periodical inroads upon the South, this great result is obtained at present by other and better means than warfare. The swarms of the Northern Hive emigrate beyond the seas, and do not possess themselves of the close-lying lands of their neighbours. The condition of the world has altered. The ancient Attila had nothing to resist his desperate legions but an effete and moribund civilisation. The modern Attila, if such a man be indeed fated to arise, will have very different enemies to deal with. Even if the Turks had been the sole opponents of the Czar, he might have found it difficult to re-enact the part which is most to his mind. The fate of Xerxes, and not the successes of Attila, might have awaited him. A nation, goaded by his insults, and lashed into fury, as well as into patriotism, by his unjust and pertinacious attacks, might, in the fulness of time, have found means to defeat great armies, by heroic resistance, equal to that of Thermopylæ; might have destroyed fleets as well as armies; and forced the invader to return to his own dominions a wiser man and a smaller Potentate than when he left them.

It would be useless to disguise the fact that a struggle with such a man must be a severe, and may be a protracted, one; but it would be equally useless to exaggerate the difficulties to be overcome. Whenever there is a giant in the way, it is wise policy to know his exact height and strength. Russia is a big giant, no doubt—especially in the imagination of those who shut their eyes against its actual proportion, and form vague ideas of its immensity. Those who calmly measure what Russia is, and of what the Czar is capable, need be under no great apprehension for the results of the pending struggle. The sanguinary drama of past ages will not be renewed in the nineteenth century. Russia is large upon the map, and, from her climate and geographical position, unassailable with success by any single opponent; but before her barbarous hordes can play the part of the Huns and

Vandals of the olden time, there must be no such nations in Europe, as Great Britain, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, and Poland, to unite against her. Were these non-existent, the similarity of circumstances might produce a similarity of result, and the Calmuc King might be the lord paramount of Europe. But no such result is possible in our day. When Russia is quiet she is invulnerable. When another state attacks her wrongfully, Russia is as firm as a rock against the assault of an army of caterpillars; but when Russia begins to move, she is as vulnerable as the rest of the world, and all her defects and weaknesses become apparent. There is only one line of her immense frontier that is not inhabited by an enemy, and that is the line in close proximity to the North Pole. She is there secure, both from foes from without and within. All her other frontier lines are formed of stolen property, and are inhabited by races who have not forgotten the spoliation of which their country was the victim, nor the oppression which they endure under the alien sovereignty to which they are bound by force, not united by affection. From the northernmost cape of Sweden to the southernmost point of the Crimea, the enemies of Russia exist, both within and without the boundary line which marks her dominion on the map. From the Crimea to Kamtschatka we know of no friend that she possesses, unless it be that miserable kingdom of Persia, which she has just bought for roubles; and which, if fortune declared against the Czar, would, in despite of those roubles, desert him in his extremity, and take the stronger side. If once fairly committed to a war with the Great Powers of Europe, Russia would find that she had accounts to settle with more than one warlike nation within, as well as on, her own boundaries. The spiritual character of the Emperor as head of the Greek Church would avail him nothing in recalling to their allegiance the subjugated tribes that would then revolt against him. The ancient Muscovites may see no blasphemies in the use which the Czar makes of the name of the Almighty, in the "Te Deums" which he



BUCHAREST, IN WALLACHIA.—(SEE NEXT PAGE)

sings for his shameful victories, or in his bold assertions that the "God of the Russians" approves all the doings of the Emperor Nicholas; but the subjugated Poles on the north, the long-suffering but vengeance-awaiting Poles on the west, and the Mahometans of the Crimea, Bessarabia, Georgia, and Circassia, and other conquered provinces in the south and east, look upon such utterances with disgust. In preaching a religious war against Turkey, the Czar forgot these things, but they will assuredly be all remembered against him on the day that he declares war against Great Britain and France.

For these and many other reasons, the anti-Russian war is not likely to cost so much blood and treasure as has been hastily anticipated. Even should Austria prove false to the alliance, the cause of justice and liberty will not suffer to any extent by the defection. The treachery of that power would but make Lombardy and Hungary the stronger and the readier auxiliaries. Neither is it to be expected that the commerce of the world will greatly suffer. Russia is but a small trader. The provinces of Moldavia and Wallachia have been as better customers to the manufacturers of England and France, than the subjects of the Czar, in all their wide-spread territories; and if the Russians never consumed another penny-worth of our productions, Great Britain would be quite as rich and flourishing as before. Australia and America would continue to give profitable employment to our looms and factories, were the Russian Empire sunk to the bottom of the sea; and Australia alone is an infinitely richer market than any of which Russian ambition or malevolence can deprive us. The war, if it come, will have been forced upon us, and there is no reason to be afraid of it. The day of the Barbarians has not yet dawned, and the Goth or the Calmuc that is to destroy Civilisation in Europe is yet unborn.

So countless are the reasons why the Emperor of Russia should make peace rather than war, that the world might even now calculate upon his withdrawal from the false position into which he has thrust himself, if his actions were swayed by the ordinary motives of men; but the tendency of irresponsible power is to inflame the passions, to harden the heart, and to deaden the intellect. None but a despot could wage such a war as the Emperor threatens, and despots, unfortunately, act upon pride and passion. But such despots inevitably pay the penalty of their miscalculation. When war is fairly declared, it will be no difficult achievement to annihilate his naval power. As a military potentate, he may be formidable to attack upon his own territory; but, if he step beyond it, the strength of Europe will be far more than a match for him. We would not value at many roubles the loyalty of the Russian people, or the fidelity of his own household, the day after his defeat.

BUCHAREST.

BUCHAREST, the capital of Wallachia, is agreeably situated in a rich and spacious plain, diversified by hills, on the eastern bank of the Dumbovitz. Though the residence of the Prince Hospodar, and the seat of Government, as well as of a Greek Archbishopric, and covering a considerable space, measuring four miles from north to south, and three from east to west, it is, in appearance, little better than an overgrown and straggling village. The dwellings, with few exceptions, are mud and brick cabins, of the most barbarous construction; and the streets are unpaved, but many of them rudely crossed by trunks of trees. The Princes' palaces, and many of the residences of the Boyards, or nobles, are handsome structures of stone, which contrast strangely with the wretched hovels by which they are surrounded. The metropolitan church is situated in a large square in the centre of the town; there are, besides, some three hundred churches built in various styles of architecture, some very uncouth, but, most of them with spires, which, being covered with tin, glitter in the sun. There are no less than twenty monasteries, or convents, which are all protected by high walls; some few of the churches are also protected in a similar manner. Coffee-houses, billiard-rooms, and gambling-houses everywhere abound; gaming being a vice to which the Wallachians are most ardently addicted. The population is about 60,000; and the principal business carried on is that of dealing in grain, wool, tallow, and cattle, which form the staple of the wealth of the province. The corn market is always abundantly supplied here, at prices which, if the navigation of the Danube were not impeded as it is by Russian interference, would materially affect the prices in Western Europe. At the present moment Bucharest is the head-quarters of the Russian invading force, the Prince Hospodar having fled, and his authority having been superseded by that of a Governor appointed by Russia. The poor Boyards have many of them been turned out of their houses, to make room for the invaders; and some of them have been exiled for want of zeal in the cause of the enemies of their country, falsely assuming to be their friends and protectors. How long this state of things may last it is impossible to say—the inclemency of the season having put a stop to military movements. The last accounts, under date December 30th, state—"Everything is perfectly quiet. The vast quantity of snow renders operations impossible." Our Artist's Sketch is taken under these circumstances. The snow-covered houses have a dismal but picturesque effect; and pickets of troops still occupy the deserted streets.

THE CALORIC STEAMER.—The problem as to the success of the Ericsson approaches a solution. The engine is now so nearly completed that a trial trip will probably be made next Tuesday or Wednesday, and Mr. Ericsson is in the best spirits, such as confidence of success inspires. We learn from one of her principal owners that experiments already made show that the desired amount of pressure may be easily obtained, and a full reliance is entertained that the ship will attain a speed of at least nine miles an hour, which will be a rate entirely satisfactory.—*New York Journal of Commerce.*

THE GRAND NATIONAL CURLING MATCH.—The preparations for this event are now, we hear, in a forward and promising state; and the middle of next week, weather permitting, will be the time. The muster promises to be considerably more numerous than on any former occasion. The number of rinks in the grand match is 166, and in the vice-president's match, 27, in all, 193 rinks, or 1644 players! The North, flushed by its last year's victory, musters stronger than the South by 27 rinks; and it is the northern players entirely that compose the vice-president's match.—*Scotsman of Saturday.*

SLAVE MOTHERS AND THEIR CHILDREN.—A bill, in relation to the sale and division of slave mothers from their children, is now before the Legislature of Georgia, which proposes to enact that the children not exceeding five years of age of any woman slave, and such woman slave shall not be separately sold, or exposed to sale under execution or other legal process, but shall be placed together, in one of the parts into which the estate to which they belong is to be divided, unless such division cannot in anywise be effected without such separation. Another section enacts, that by consent of the ordinary, slaves living in a different county from a deceased owner may be sold in the county in which they reside, upon application being made for such purpose.

METROPOLITAN WINTER POULTRY SHOW.—His Royal Highness Prince Albert has entered several specimens, and will be an extensive contributor at the ensuing Great Metropolitan Winter Poultry Show, appointed to take place at the Baker-street Bazaar, on the 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th instant. Amongst the other contributors are Lord Robert Grosvenor, M.P.; Lord Berwick, Lord North, Lieut.-Colonel Goulburn, Lady Gilbert East, Hon. Mrs. Astley, D. C. Marjoribanks, Esq., M.P., &c. The show will be the largest ever attempted, consisting of 1100 pens of poultry, 400 pens of pigeons, together with rabbits and extra stock, amounting in the whole to 1800 pens, comprising some of the finest specimens of rare and beautiful birds. So extensive will be the show that the entire area usually appropriated to the Smithfield Cattle Show will be occupied by the specimens.

THE LEMAN ESTATE FUND.—The indictment against Williams and others, for a conspiracy to defraud, in connection with the Leman Estate Fund, in the Court of Chancery, has been removed by *certiorari* to the Court of Queen's Bench.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

Louis Napoleon and the Empress received, in their apartments, the felicitations and compliments of New-year's-day, from the Princes Jerome and Napoleon, and the other members of the Imperial family, as well as from the officers of the Crown and the household, and the Ministers, Marshals, and Admirals. Their Majesties afterwards proceeded to the Throne-room, where the diplomatic corps were presented by the Grand Master of the Ceremonies, and expressed their congratulations.

The rumour runs that M. Fould is retiring, in order to make way for a minister whose name should be taken as indicative of more warlike policy than he is inclined to countenance.

The Emperor of Russia is not without his partisans in France. He is represented by two Parisian journals, the *Débats* and *Assemblée Nationale*, both of which are under the inspiration of M. Guizot, M. Duchatel, and the other leaders of the old Conservative party. This party spares no means to frighten those who would oppose the Russian aggression. At one moment they endeavour to alarm France by hinting at the proverbial perfidy of England; at another they try to frighten the English, by declaring that Russia can at any time gain over France by giving her Belgium. There is no doubt that this party is not without a certain influence in the councils of Louis Napoleon. Even the ex-Ministers of Louis Philippe, who meet in council at the Princess Lieven's, have an indirect influence, which they do not hesitate to use in the interests of the Czar.

The Emperor of the French some time back gave directions to the Minister of War to prepare a report for him, giving an exact detail of the present situation of the French army, to be accompanied with a statement of the number of men that France could, if necessary, place without delay on a war footing. This paper, it is said, has been lately sent in, and the number of men which could be employed as just stated is set down in it at 1,250,000 men.

The *Caradoc* arrived on Monday night at Marseilles. She left Constantinople on the 25th ult., and no doubt must bring intelligence of importance, since Lord Ratford de Redcliffe thought fit to de-patch her, for some reason, before the Porte made known its resolutions respecting the propositions of the Ambassadors.

The *Sentinelle* of Toulon, of Dec. 30, says:—"It is reported that the *Caton* will leave to-morrow for the Levant, and that it will carry out the new instructions to our squadron and Ambassador."

The *Siecle* has published a telegraphic despatch, stating that Prussia and Austria have withdrawn from the Conference of Vienna, in consequence of the order for the fleets to enter the Black Sea. This statement requires confirmation.

At a dinner given last week, at Paris, by Prince Louis Napoleon to a party of friends, the host, in answer to some doubts expressed by one of his guests, declared that there was not the slightest doubt as to the gravity of the situation, and that within ten days news would be made public which would open the eyes of all.

According to the commercial reports, the state of trade in Paris and in the departments is as bad as might be expected in presence of a threatened war. Orders have been withdrawn and purchases suspended, especially for Russian account. On the other hand, it is expected that the corn markets must soon turn, as it is now said that the whole amount of the harvest deficiency has been made good, or very nearly so, by importations from other countries.

The wound received by the Marquis de Turgot, in his duel with Mr. Soulé, the American Minister at Madrid, is now said to cause great anxiety to the friends of the Marquis. Serious symptoms have shown themselves in the leg, and threaten the knee joint, and a telegraphic message has been received at Paris, requesting the attendance of French surgeons.

TURKEY.

The following is an official report of the threatened insurrection of the Softies at Constantinople, on the 21st ult.:

PERA, DEC. 22.—The General Assembly having authorised the Minister to negotiate, the students of the mosques, excited by some Ulemas, met yesterday to petition against that resolution. Disturbances were at one moment feared, but the measures taken by the Cabinet assembled in the Palace prevented any disorder. From three to four hundred students have been arrested. Every thing is tranquil. A proclamation just issued makes known the true object of the deliberation of the General Assembly, and announces that measures will be taken against the perturbators, if necessary.

The proclamation alluded to, as explaining the real object of the Grand Council in granting its authority to the Government to enter into negotiations is considered to imply nothing more—particularly after the Protocol, the collective Note, and the instructions given to the Ambassadors—than the permission to send to the conference an Envoy, charged with explaining the last conditions on which the Sultan will treat. Those conditions, so far as we know them from public and official sources, are the immediate evacuation of the Principalities, the revision of all the outstanding treaties between Russia and the Porte, and the withdrawal of the extraordinary pretensions contained in the Notes of Prince Menschikoff and the Circulars of M. de Nesselrode. It is certain that Turkey would have little cause of apprehension if the Great Powers guarantee these conditions. The all but avowed French organ of Russia, the *Assemblée Nationale*, seems to agree in the general opinion that there is but little chance of the Emperor Nicholas consenting to treat on such terms.

A telegraphic despatch from Constantinople, dated September 26, states that the Council of Ministers had on that day notified to the four Ambassadors that it had adopted, very nearly, the propositions suggested at Constantinople by the representatives of the Four Powers. The Council of Ministers had not yet drawn up its statement in due form, but it was to do so, and to transmit copies to the four Ambassadors on the 29th of December.

Some further particulars have been received respecting the capture of a Russian war-schooner at the entrance of the Bosphorus, on the night of the 14th ult. It appears that Mustafa Bey, the commander of the fort of Anadolu-Kavak (in the Bosphorus), where the Captain and crew are now prisoners, on seeing the schooner, put out in a boat, and pulled for her. He called to them to surrender, which they were obliged to do immediately, as the batteries of the forts were turned towards them. The schooner's name is *Aloupa*; she carries six guns, has a Captain, one sergeant, five corporals, and fourteen seamen; there was also an engineer officer on board. The *Aloupa* has been drawn under the batteries of fort Anadolu-Kavak, and the Turkish flag hoisted in her. Before surrendering the Russians threw a great many things into the water, which are supposed to have been combustible matters. Hence the belief that they had come to burn the English and French fleets.

It is not improbable that the northern shores and ports of the Euxine are blocked up with ice. In severe seasons the Gulf of Odessa has been frozen over for two months at a time, and the navigation of that port is interrupted on an average thirty-nine days in the year, especially in the month of January. The north-west angle of the Black Sea, between the mouths of the Dnieper and Dniester, is the coldest and most exposed part of it, and Cherson, Nicolaieff, Odessa, and Oczakow are probably unapproachable by water. Sebastopol is scarcely more accessible to winter operations, and the best naval authorities express doubts of the possibility of maintaining any close blockade of the coast of the Crimea and Cherson at this time of year.

A letter from Malta, of the 28th ult., states that the merchants who had contracted to supply the British fleet with coal in the Black Sea, had received notice to prepare depôts of coal at Sinope, Varna, and Trebizond.

Two firmans have been sent to Servia: one guaranteed all the Servian privileges; the other declared all the Turco-Russian treaties null and void, but that Servia might demand the protection of all the Powers.

In Madara, a large village—which is a sanctuary (recognised by law) for married Turkish women who have fled from their husbands, and girls from their parents—4000 regular troops and 2000 redifs are quartered. During the campaign the women of Madara have supplied the army with 10,000 shirts, bandages, and lint; and, as a reward for their humane and patriotic exertions, the Sultan has ordered silk dresses and a letter of commendation to be sent to them.

WAR ON THE DANUBE.

Nothing whatever of importance has recently occurred along the whole line of the Danube, but, now that the river is completely frozen over, it is to be expected that we shall not be long without news of importance. Lieutenant-General Lüders, who is continually on the move between Galatz and Reni, is at the head of about 32,000 men. The available strength of the Russians in the two Principalities, and in that part of Bessarabia lying between Reni and the island of Tschatal, is estimated at 100,000 men. It is thought highly probable that if the Porte persists in refusing to treat until the Principalities have been

evacuated the Russians will undertake the following combined movements:—General Lüders will try to force the passage of the river at or near Matschin, Prince Gortschakoff will attack Rustchuk, and General Aurep will endeavour to dislodge the Turks from Kalafat. The centre of the Russian army, which may be about 45,000 strong, with its headquarters at Bucharest, is under the immediate command of Prince Gortschakoff, who has a very large staff of general officers. General Aurep, who commands the right wing, which may consist of some 28,000 men, is now at Krajova. The two generals of division under him are Dannenberg and Fischback.

It is probable that something more is going on in Bessarabia than we are aware of, as the Galatz correspondent of the *Oest. Deutsche Post* speaks of troops arriving there on the 17th ult., and returning on the following day in forced marches (to Bessarabia). A strong detachment soon followed, with fifteen guns. It is rumoured that the Turks, who are in force near Isaktohi, think of crossing into Bessarabia. On the 14th the English Consul left Galatz for the Sulina mouth. According to advices of the 19th from Old Orsova, the fortifications of the Turks at Kalafat are perfect in their way. Mines have been made in all directions. "The measures of the Russians are such, as it must be supposed that they have regularly entered into possession of the Principalities. It is said that orders have been issued to raise 30,000 or 40,000 men."

The last accounts from the seat of war state that the Russian steamer *Pruth* had been sailing up and down the Danube, firing red-hot balls at the Turkish villages, two of which were burned.

THE WAR IN ASIA.

The Ottoman Government, in deference to the wishes of the Ambassadors, and in the desire not needlessly to stimulate the prevalent warlike excitement, has forborne to publish the bulletins received from Kars and Erzeroum, as it did the narrative of Sinope. The substance of the reports to the Seraskier, however, has transpired through other channels, and is far from supporting the lofty language employed in the reports of Gen. Andronikoff. It is not true, as the Russians assert, that the Turks lost twenty of their guns, nor yet that their camp equipage and material of war fell into the hands of the enemy. Instead of pursuing a routed and flying army, the Russians had to fight for all the ground they gained, which was about six miles. Abdi Pacha's army was not disorganised, but is preparing again to take the field, this time under a more experienced and energetic officer, and with a large infusion of regular troops. The news of Sinope is said to have thoroughly aroused the Turks, who are beginning to feel that, if such things can happen by sea and near the fleets, they have nothing to trust but God and their own swords. The Sultan and his Ministers have been much pressed to raise the standard of the Prophet, and give to the war with Russia the character of a religious strife, but they have steadfastly refused.

The entry of the combined fleets into the Black Sea, which has been so many times announced in a quasi-official manner, is thus noticed by the *Siecle*:—"We have reason to believe that, while allowing the diplomats to confer together on their unfortunate projects of pacification, the Cabinets of Paris and London have concerted measures which, whatever names may be given them, are really measures of war. The order for the entry of the fleets into the Black Sea, which was sent off by telegraph on the 13th ult., required to be developed in its object. That was done by the despatches sent off on the 21st:—and these which will be carried out by the packet about to leave Marseilles, leave no room for doubt in the interpretation of them. They state what must be done, and how it must be done, leaving the admirals, of course, free in the adoption of the technical means."

The *Journal de St. Petersburg* of the 22nd has a supplement, containing a very long report from General Andronikoff of the battle of Akal-Tsche, but it contains no new fact, and its length is merely caused by a number of inconsiderable incidents of that battle. The same journal publishes another bulletin of a trifling engagement which is said to have taken place on the 25th ult., near Erivan, on the eve of the battle of Akal-Tsche, and in which, according to the bulletin, the loss on the part of the Russians was insignificant, being limited to eight wounded. The Turks, on the contrary, are said to have lost 200 in killed and wounded, and 20 prisoners.

A letter from Hiss states that Prince Woronzow had received despatches from St. Petersburg, announcing the sending of a reinforcement of artillery which he had demanded, and which will place at his disposal 80 pieces of artillery. They also announce that two fresh divisions of infantry will be added to the force now under his command. These despatches, which reached him before the affair of Sinope, order him to continue energetically the war in that part of Asia.

RUSSIA.

The German journals notice the passage of Count de Reiset on his way to St. Petersburg with the official announcement that the Black Sea is to be entered by the combined fleets. The severity of the season will prevent that nobleman from arriving in the Russian capital before the 8th or 9th, so that the reply of Russia to the announcement cannot well be known, even by telegraph, before the 16th or 17th. M. de Brunnow, at London, and M. de Kiseleff, at Paris, have already received their instructions, it is reported at Vienna, as to their conduct in case the united fleets are to enter the Black Sea. As soon as that event is officially declared, both, it is said, are to take their departure.

The *New Prussian Gazette* of the 29th ult. confirms the account already given of the Emperor of Russia having ordered that all the forces in his empire shall be placed on a war footing. This measure, says the *New Prussian Gazette*, will bring up the nominal strength of the Russian army to 2,226,000 men, with 1000 pieces of artillery. The latter statement is evidently an exaggeration.

The *Independence Belge* says that, "improbable as it may at first appear," the Governments of France and England have addressed to that of Russia, if not an ultimatum, at least a note, pressing for the expression of its resolution relative to the propositions framed at Vienna. The Brussels journal abandons on this occasion its long-cherished optimism, and confesses the conviction, which appears to be that of all the world, that the Sultan may accept the Vienna project, but the Czar never.

The *Augsburg Gazette*, under the head of "Last news from the theatre of war," states that the amount of the Turkish force on the banks of the Danube, is 123,000, without including the reserve at Slumia; and the force of the Russians on the Danube, including the reserve, only 110,000; but that the Russians are preparing to assume the offensive. General Lüders, it is said, is to force the passage of the Danube at Matschin. Prince Gortschakoff is to besiege Rustchuk, and General Aurep is to attack Kalafat.

A letter from Kalisch, dated December 22, says that there is no indication of the army in Poland having received orders to march forward towards the theatre of war.

In Paris, as well as in St. Petersburg, the Austrian and Prussian Ambassadors attended at a "Te Deum" performed there to celebrate the great and glorious victories gained by the Russian arms over Turkey at Sinope and other places.

RUSSIAN INTRIGUE.

The *Gazette de Spéier* contains a letter dated Warsaw, 14th December which describes Russia as making gigantic preparations, under the pretext of chastising the Khan of Khiva, but in reality with a higher aim. "For fifteen years," it remarks, "Russia has been occupied in organising the Mongols and the Kirghese; she has furnished them with arms, money, and officers, and has had them instructed in the use of arms and the art of war. At any moment, at a signal from the Czar, 200,000 horse from among the hordes of the Kirghese, encamped between the Caspian Sea and Mount Altai, could enter upon a campaign, if Russia should induce Persia and Cabul to declare war against England, to unite their forces with hers, and with those of the Mongols; at the same time, offering the hand to the independent Powers of India on the other side of the Ganges. In such a war with England, who can tell what would become of Hindostan, or what modifications the English rule in India might undergo? The epoch of Zingis Khan might return, and Asia pass once more under Mongolian sway. England has reason to dread the attempts of Russia; for, if the deserts and mountains which divide the Russian empire from Asia be impregnable by European armies, they are not so by hordes inured to the fatigues of war. The day is not perhaps distant when Russia and England, the two most powerful empires of the world, may be engaged in hostilities, and war break out upon every point of their enormous possessions. England is better informed than any other power of the projects and preparations of Russia; and the aid which she affords the Turkish army in the trans-Caucasian provinces has no other object but to raise against the Russian empire the Tartar hordes of the Caucasus and the Caspian, and, by paralysing the Russian influence over the Mongols, the Persians, and the Kirghese, to render abortive the projects against the Indian possessions of Great Britain."

It is stated in the Indian newspapers that the Shah of Persia has marched from Teheran with 30,000 men, 1000 pieces of cannon, and

3000 camels loaded with ammunition, and that they were last seen passing Tabreez; that the Shah had sent an envoy to Dost Mahomed; and that the Russian army, having captured Ahmetzee, was marching on Khiva. On the other hand, it is stated that Dost Mahomed, who is well known to be no friend to Russia, has sent two Ambassadors to the Shah of Persia, in the persons of Mirdat Khan and Cohendehl Khan, to demand that the 16,000 men, the Persian garrison at Herat, be withdrawn; and that the Sheik Heidar, Governor of Herat, and son of the Persian Sheik of Reschet, be dismissed, and the Government given back to Hus-ein, son of the late Viceroy of Herat, Yar Mahomed, who died poisoned two years ago.

The Stockholm *Aftonbladet* announces, on authority, that the Secret Committee of the Swedish Diet has decided on strict neutrality in case of war. A treaty has been concluded with Denmark for a common course of operations by sea. It is difficult to say what this decision really indicates; but there is too much reason to fear that Russia has more influence both at Copenhagen and Stockholm, than is good for Europe.

A letter from Athens (16th Dec.) states that Ismail Pacha has forbidden the entrance into Smyrna of the Athens *Sicde*, on account of its having published an article exciting the Greeks to revolt against the Sultan, and to co operate in the destruction of the Ottoman Empire.

ITALY.

The Cabinets of the North are greatly alarmed about the anti-Russian feeling gradually displaying itself in the Austrian army. It is asserted that whole corps would go over to the enemy, if placed in the vicinity of an army opposed to Russian aggression. In the Roman States it is found necessary to concentrate the Austrian forces, and change some of the regiments. This is creating much fear at the Vatican, as the places thus abandoned must be occupied by French troops, which the Government of the Pope by no means desires, as the spread of Frenchmen over the Papal States is looked upon as an evil. From the frontiers of Piedmont to Sicily the police are hard at work daily imprisoning suspected persons. In Rome nearly a hundred have been shut up within the last three weeks; in Naples arrests are taking place daily in the army as well as amongst the townspeople. Travelling, for an Italian, is almost impossible in Southern Italy.

The somewhat novel ceremony of consecrating an English abbot was performed at Rome, on the 21st ult., by Cardinal Wiseman, at the church of St. Gregory. Dr. Burder, the abbot elect, abandoned the Church of England about eight years ago, and entered the new Trappist monastery of St. Bernard, in Leicestershire, where he rendered himself so acceptable to his brethren, that at the end of three years they elected him their superior. The provincial-general of the order, however, would not ratify the election, on account of the short time the Doctor had served in the monkish ranks, and he was therefore obliged to content himself for four years more with the secondary dignity of Prior. On the day named, Cardinal Wiseman installed him in his full rank, and Dr. Burder, as Abbot of St. Bernard's, with shaven crown and Carmelite gown, paraded up and down the church between two Italian Bishops, all with their croziers before them, whilst a full choir thundered out an impressive "Te Deum." Another English Trappist monk took part in the ceremony, acting as the Cardinal's deacon, his powerful frame and thoroughly Anglo-Saxon features, in combination with the monkish garb, reminding English spectators irresistibly of the Friar Tuck class of anchorites who figure in our early ballads and traditions.

PIEDMONT.

In its sitting of the 28th ult., the Piedmontese Senate voted the answer to the speech from the Throne without a dissentient voice, and without a discussion. It is but an echo of the speech, interspersed with warm expressions of loyalty and confidence in the King's Government. The answer, unanimously voted by the Chamber of Deputies on the same day, is in a similar strain. The latter afterwards voted the bill for authorising the provisional execution of the budget of 1854, by a majority of 86 to 13.

UNITED STATES.

By the steamer *Niagara*, which left Boston on the 20th ult., and Halifax on the 23rd, we have intelligence from New York to the 22nd. The latest advices from Washington state that the Naval Committee of the Senate had reported favourably on the proposition for the immediate construction of six steam-frigates. An exciting debate on slavery had taken place in the House of Representatives. The subject was introduced by Gerrit Smith, the abolitionist representative for New York, while the House was considering a resolution voting a sword and thanks to Captain Ingraham, for his conduct at Smyrna in the Costa affair.

A complimentary dinner had been given at New York to John Mitchel, at which, he spoke strongly against the American Secretary of State, for having warned all "seditious propagandists" that the Government will not protect them "if they engage in fraudulent machinations for disturbing the tranquillity of other nations." The "Exile of Erin" thinks that such a warning shows the cloven hoof; that it indicates too much sympathy with those whom he styles the "accepted conspirators of Europe" than is befitting in an American Minister. The dinner party was a large one; but it appears to have been attended principally by Irish residents in New York.

The United States Government had despatched an officer to the Pacific to take measures to capture the Sonora invaders. The latest accounts from New Orleans deny positively that any Cuban expedition is fitting out.

There had been a dreadful riot among the workmen on the Illinois Central Railroad, near Lasalle. An altercation occurred about wages between a contractor named Story and a party of Irishmen, which was terminated by shooting one of the disaffected. Mr. Story was afterwards captured and brutally murdered, and his wife was fired at, but escaped. The foreman of the deceased has since shot nine of the labourers, and

the sheriff has killed two more, and captured thirty. The ringleader of the rioters escaped.

The river steamer *Zachary Taylor* had exploded her boilers, by which three persons were killed and ten severely scalded. A still more fatal steamer explosion had occurred at Charlestown. The victims in this latter case amounted to thirteen.

From St. Domingo we learn that a difficulty had sprung up between that Government and France. The war steamer *Julla* had assumed a threatening attitude, and a demand had been made to Santa Anna to dismiss his Cabinet and appoint another more favourable to France. Great excitement, in consequence, prevailed in St. Domingo city.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

By the *Bosphorus*, which arrived at Plymouth, on Monday, we have news from the Cape to Nov. 21, at which time all was peaceable and progressive. The only thing of an adverse nature was a fatal disease among horned cattle, said to have been imported from Holland. In Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Graham's Town, and several other places, a general spirit of co-operation in favour of universal education had manifested itself, and was expected to lead to a vast extension of the educational institutions of the colony. General Sir G. Cathcart continues to speak hopefully of the future state of the border. The new arrangements and general administration of affairs in Kaffirland seem to be peaceably acquiesced in by the Kaffirs. Some uneasiness, however, is naturally felt by the colonists at the early withdrawal of the troops, after so fierce and protracted a struggle with a daring race like the Kaffirs. In the Orange River sovereignty, Sir G. Clerk proceeds steadily in maturing arrangements for the withdrawal of British authority from the north side of the river. Numerous petitions and remonstrances against this line of policy have been signed and forwarded to her Majesty. It is also proposed to despatch two delegates to England to represent the wishes and opinions of the inhabitants on this subject. A proclamation has been issued by the Governor, announcing that the lists of persons qualified to vote in the several electoral divisions being completed, it is fitting to proceed with the elections of the members of the Legislative Council. His Excellency therefore proceeds to appoint the several returning officers, and fix the polling places in the several divisions. The elections are to commence on the 9th January, and will have been completed throughout the colony on the 28th.

THE BERLIN CONSPIRACY.—Fresh arrests, effected at Berlin last week, have proved that the conspiracy of last March was more extensive than had been supposed. Sentence on the prisoners of that period is still deferred: one of them has been confined for nine months; another of them, Dr. Lindersdorf, is suffering under mental alienation.

PROGRESS OF THE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH IN INDIA.—In the simultaneous arrival at Calcutta of Dr. O'Shaughnessy and Mr. R. M. Stephenson, we have a good augury for electric telegraphs and railways in India. Dr. O'Shaughnessy, who leaves Calcutta immediately for the north-west, will find the work far advanced already. Poles for the electric telegraph have sprung up as if by magic along the greater length of the Grand Trunk road, and we hear that very great progress has been made on the Bombay line, so that the end of the cold season will see at least two sides of Dr. O'Shaughnessy's great triangle very nearly completed.

THE DISASTER AT SINOPE.

We have engraved upon the next page, from accredited sources, the scene of the destruction of the Turkish squadron, under Admiral Osman Pacha, at Sinope, by a squadron of the Russian fleet, under Vice-Admiral Nachimoff, commanding the 5th naval division, on the 18 (30) November, 1853.

The moment depicted by the Artist is the commencement of the attack made by the Russians on the Turks. We have already fully detailed the disaster.

The following is a list of the Turkish squadron under Osman Pacha, in which, however, the number of guns differs from that in the Russian account:—

Names of Ships.	Guns.	Men.	Fate of Ships.
Nagainia (flag) ..	60	600	Fired by the enemy, blew up after action
Navik ..	52	500	Blew up half an hour after action began
Nessim ..	52	500	Burnt the next day by enemy
Kaid ..	50	500	Burnt the next day by enemy
Dimiat (Egyptian) ..	54	500	Burnt, and blew up during action
Avimilah (flag) ..	36	400	Burnt the next day, after enemy trying to tow her out
Faisli Hah ..	40	400	Burnt the next day by enemy
Fairi Marbout ..	20	240	Burnt the next day by enemy
Gul Sefit ..	24	200	Burnt, fouling the English brig Howard, and destroying her
Nedge Jesan ..	24	200	On shore, riddled and dismasted
E Kegli ..	4	100	Burnt the next day by enemy
Taif ..	16	300	
Total ..	432	4440	

The opposing force of the Russians, under Admiral Nachimoff, consisted of three three-deckers, three two-deckers, two frigates, and four steamers.

The English steamer *Retribution* and French *Mogador* brought down 219 wounded and about 400 men and officers who had escaped unhurt to the shore.

The Turks estimate their loss at 3000 killed.

We have been favoured with the annexed plan of the attack as given by the Russian authorities.

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT.

Tuesday being the day to which Parliament was prorogued on the 29th of November last, for the purpose of further proroguing it, the doors of the House of Lords were thrown open, and a great concourse of persons assembled to witness the ceremony, notwithstanding the severity of the weather.

The Lords Commissioners (the Lord Chancellor, Lord Granville, and the Duke of Argyll) attended at the unusual hour of one o'clock, instead of two or half-past two, which, for many years, has been the hour at which their Lordships were in the habit of assembling. On their Lordships taking their seats on the bench—placed, according to usual custom in front of the throne—and the throne having been uncovered,

The Lord Chancellor commanded the Yeoman Usher of the Black Rod to summon the attendance of the Commons to hear her Most Gracious Majesty's commission for the further prorogation of Parliament read.

Mr. Fulman accordingly proceeded to the House of Commons to summon the representatives of the people to the House of Lords, and in a few minutes returned, accompanied by Mr. Ley, one of the Clerks of Parliament, Capt. Gossett, Assistant-Deputy Serjeant-at-Arms, and several officials connected with the Lower House.

Her Majesty's Commission was then read, commanding the Lords Commissioners to further prorogue Parliament until the 31st of January instant, then and there to meet for the despatch of business.

The Commissioners then rose and bowed to the Commons, who withdrew, and the Commissioners having bowed to each other, withdrew also.

The proceedings did not occupy more than a few minutes. The body of the house, with the exception of the front seats, was occupied by ladies anxious to witness the ceremony.

HONOUR TO THE FRENCH EMPRESS.—By a decree of the Prefet de la Seine, placarded in all directions, an inquiry is to be held at the second Mairie of Paris into the project of immediately dispossessing (at a compensation) the proprietors of some forty houses in the Rues St. Honore, Richelieu, du Rempart, and Jeannison, for the purpose of forming a grand opening in front of the Theatre Francaise, to be called "Place de l'Impératrice Eugénie."

LONDON MECHANICS' INSTITUTION.—The thirtieth anniversary of this institution was celebrated with much spirit by a *soirée and conversatione*, at Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, on Wednesday evening. The friends and supporters of the society mustered in unusual numbers, and a short time after the opening of the doors the various classrooms of the institution were completely crowded with ladies and gentlemen, who amused themselves till the commencement of the concert by inspecting the different scientific or artistic works which were displayed round the rooms. The concert, which took place in the theatre of the Institution, was the principal feature of the evening. It was diversified by a selection of pieces, which were delivered with much spirit by the pupils of the elocution class. A ball in aid of the funds of the *conversazione* committee will be given at Willis's Rooms on Wednesday evening next.

A HARD CASE.—In consequence of the inclement state of the weather, and the high price of provisions, the London omnibus proprietors memorialised the inland Revenue Commissioners for time to pay their mileage duties, and offered to prove to the Commissioners that the duties amounted to a tax of 15 per cent on the returns, while the railway only pay 5 per cent. The board, without giving time for inquiry, refused the application; though it is well known that similar applications for longer credit have been granted when the hop-growers have had a bad season. The result, it is said, will be a great sacrifice of property. The owners of omnibuses unanimously affirm that, had they to rely upon the returns of that trade as their sole means of livelihood, two-thirds of the London omnibuses would have been discontinued during the last four months, from having failed to pay their working expenses.

Temperance refreshment-rooms are being established at Wick, in connection with the "statute," or fairs; and the Duke of Sutherland has signified his readiness to contribute £100 towards the object.

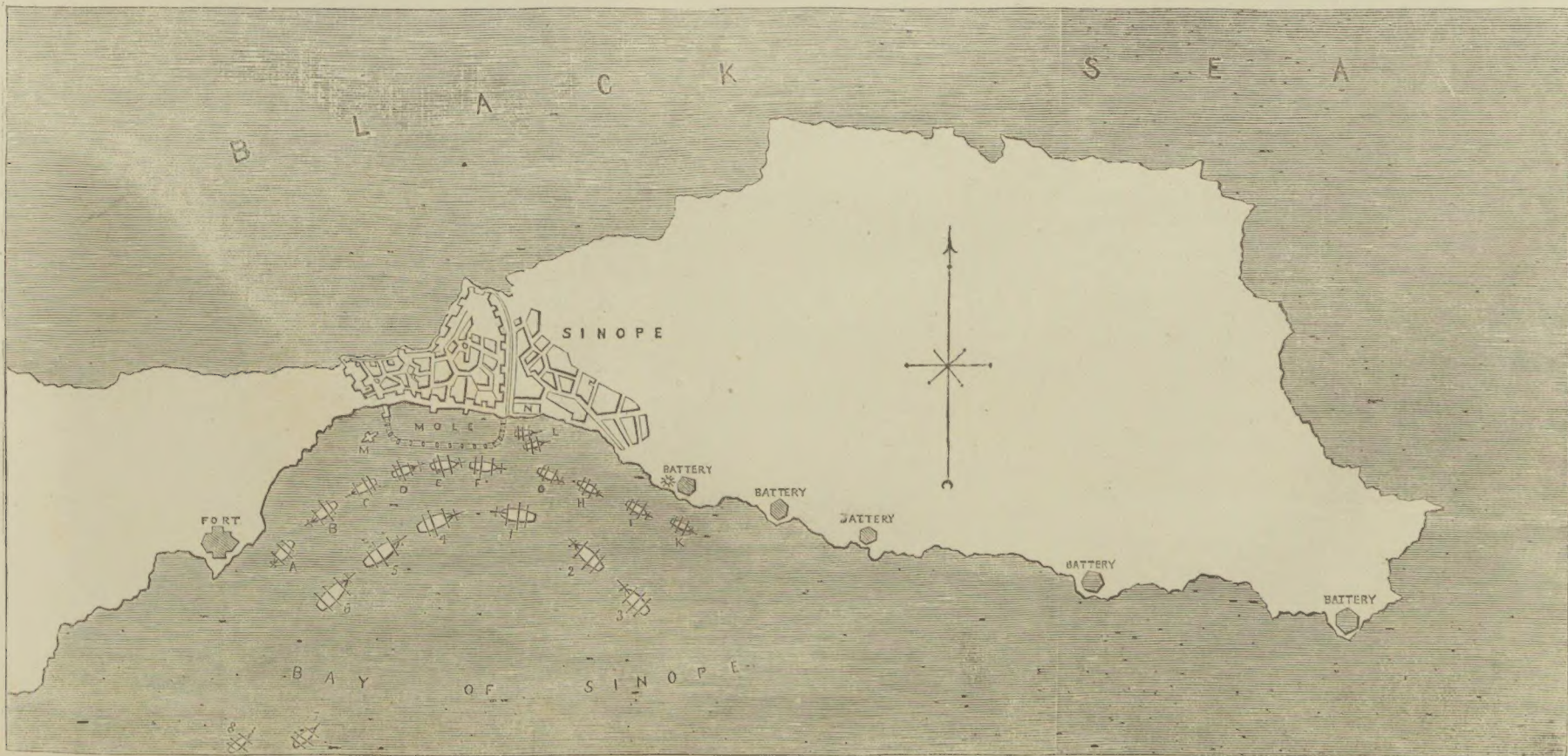
THE TURKISH QUESTION.—At the meeting of the St. Pancras vestry, on Wednesday, a numerous signed requisition was presented, calling upon the authorities to convene a public meeting "To take into consideration the present unsatisfactory conduct of her Majesty's Cabinet in reference to Turkish affairs, and to humbly pray her Majesty to take to her council such statesmen as will maintain the honour of England and the integrity of the Sultan's dominions against the atrocious aggression of the Autocrat of Russia." After some discussion, it was resolved that the use of the vestry-hall be granted gratuitously.

GIURGEVO.

GIURGEVO is the principal port of Wallachia on the Danube, and the point of landing and embarkation for Bucharest. On the right bank of the river, about a mile higher up, is the Turkish fort of Rustchuk. Giurgevo has the remains of some old fortifications fronting the river, which were destroyed by the Russians in 1829: but otherwise the place appears to be undefended, and its aspect is very unpretending; being chiefly remarkable for the wide-spread mud banks in which it is imbedded. Between the Turkish and Wallachian shores stands the little island of Mokanna, which has been the scene of so much hard fighting in the course of the late military operations; and which, in spite of repeated attacks, is still in the hands of the Turkish forces. Lower down is a Cossack station. On the heights near Rustchuk is seen part of the Turkish camp. It was a few miles below Giurgevo that the Russian army crossed the Danube in 1829. The movement was silently effected at night, by means of pontoons, which were swung across by the force of the current; and, before the day had well dawned, the troops of the Czar were on their way into the interior of Bulgaria.

There is a considerable trade in corn and other agricultural produce carried on at Giurgevo; there is also a port between it and Rustchuk, and thence over land to Constantinople. This is the route generally taken by the couriers of the foreign agents established at Bucharest.

A gentleman who has recently made a tour in the Danubian Princi-



- A, Frigate, 38 guns.

B, Frigate, 50 guns.

E, Frigate, 60 guns.

F, Frigate, 64 guns.

I, Frigate, 50 guns.

K, Frigate, 52 guns.
- TURKISH SQUADRON.

C, Sloop, 24 guns.

D, Frigate, 44 guns.

G, Corvette, 22 guns.

H, Corvette, 22 guns.
- L, Transport.

M, Steamer.

N, Dockyard.
- 1, Empress Maria.

2, Grand Duke Constantine.

3, Tchernoma.

4, City of Paris.

5, Three Bishops.

6, Rostislav.

7, Kulercher rigate.

8, Kagul.

PLAN OF THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TURKISH SQUADRON, AT SINOPE.



THE BATTLE OF SINOPE.

palities, gives some interesting particulars of what he observed on his journey from Giurgevo to Bucharest—a distance of about forty miles:—

There were eight wild looking horses attached to the diligence driven by our postilion, who rode on the rear wheeler. We went along at a very good pace, considering the nature of the ground. There are no roads, properly speaking, in Wallachia. There are merely broad tracks, covered with a deep lair of dark-coloured dust in the summer, and which, in rainy weather, or after a thaw, change into rivers of mud, through which the coach labours, sunk in slush to the axle-tree. When the road is too much cut up, a new track on either side of it is chosen, which is soon reduced to the same state. But in the winter, when the snow on the ground is frozen over, travelling is performed very rapidly in sledges. It was only four o'clock in the morning when we started, and at seven o'clock we reached the Khan, which is situated half-way between Giurgevo and Bucharest, and there we breakfasted.

There were about 500 Russians quartered in the neighbourhood of the Khan. They had that staid, soldierly look, which is the effect of severe discipline. This I observed to be the characteristic of nearly all the Russian soldiers that I have seen in the Principalities. The exceptions are the young recruits, who, of course are not yet properly formed. I have never observed any appearance of light-heartedness amongst the Russian soldiers, even when on duty. It is true that at times, in marching, whole battalions sing in chorus, either the National Anthem, which is a fine, solemn air, or some wild melody, generally of a warlike character,

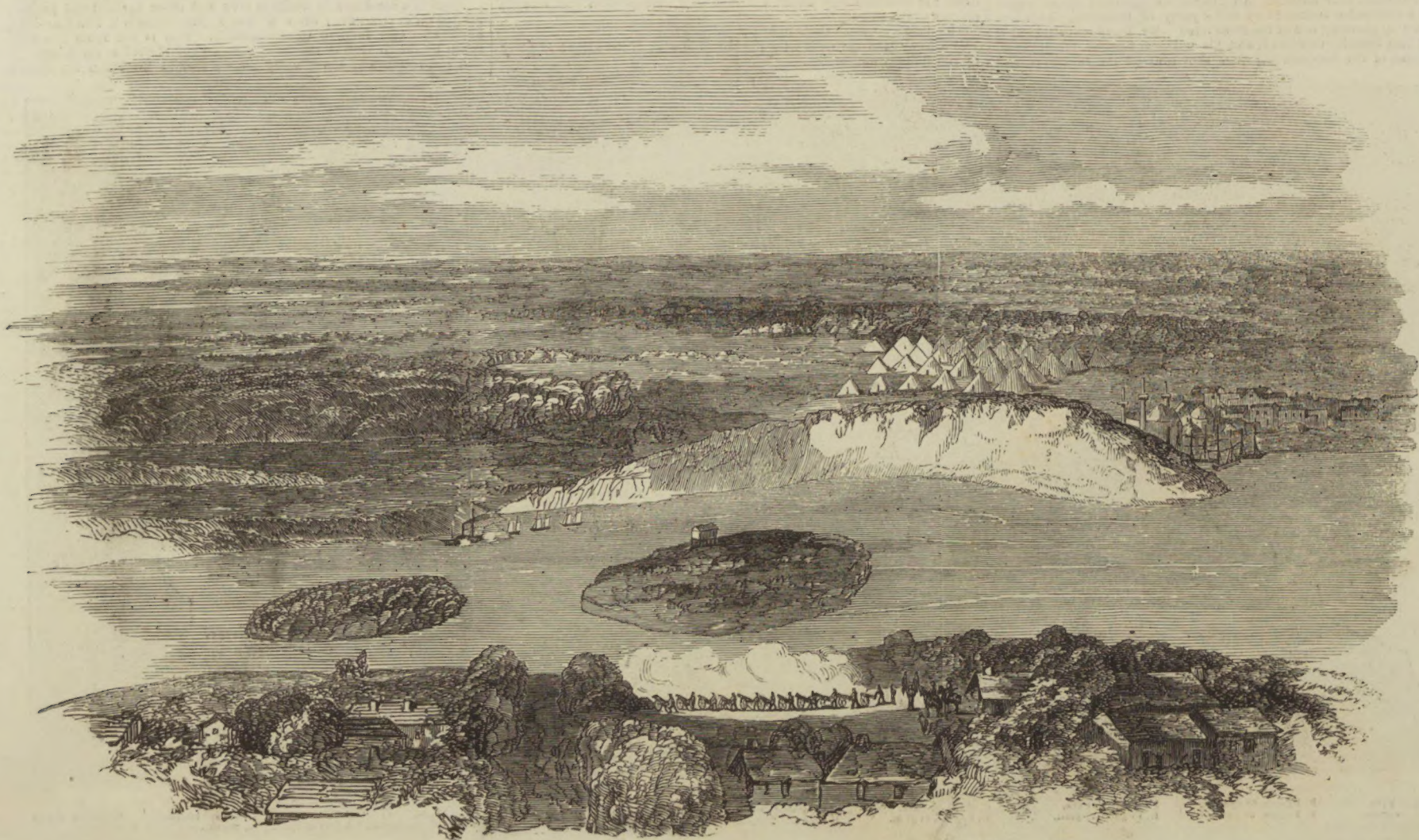
interspersed with sharp cries and an occasional shrill whistle. The latter songs are particularly animated and spirit-stirring; and the quick rattle of the drum, which is the sole instrumental accompaniment, increases their exciting character. To the listener there is something sublime in thus hearing thousands of manly voices blended together in chorus, uttering sentiments of devotion to God and the Emperor, or of fierce defiance to the enemies of the Czar. But even in these exhibitions the sternness of military rule is seen. Upon the faces of the men thus engaged no trace of emotion is visible; their tread is measured; their forms are erect; they are obeying a command, and not an impulse. The emotions of the heart seem to have been drilled into order, and expressions of love or anger, devotion or revenge, are only awakened by the voice of their commander.

The country in this part is remarkably rich and beautiful. It had rained for a couple of hours during the night, and everything looked fresh and sparkling in the morning light. The habitations of the small farmers and peasants in Wallachia bear a near resemblance to those belonging to the same class in Ireland. The cabins of the labourers are built of mud, or half-dried bricks, and covered with thatch; whilst the house of the small farmer is in the same style, but upon a larger scale. There is very generally some attempt at ornament about these dwellings. They are all nicely whitewashed, and there is often some vine or creeping plant trained round the door or window. The spot, too, where a village stands is almost always sheltered by trees, and where there is not a running stream, there are generally five or six wells, from which the water is drawn by a sort of wooden crane. To the end of the transverse

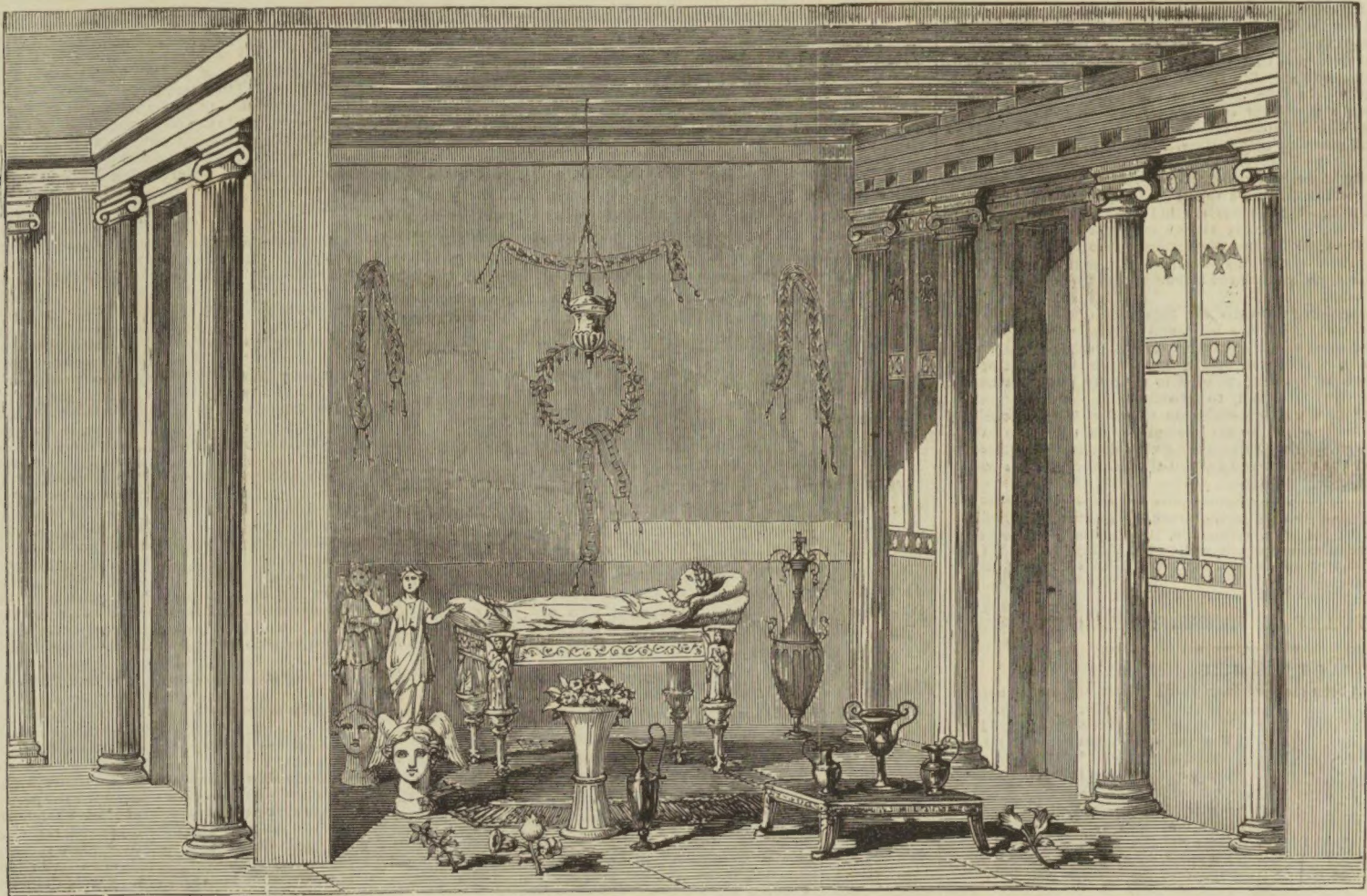
pole the bucket is attached by a rope, whilst at the opposite end is fastened a heavy stone. With a lever thus constructed, the water is raised from the deepest wells with very little effort. Taken altogether, the villages have an air of picturesqueness, and almost of comfort.

As we proceeded along the road to Bucharest we saw small parties of Russian soldiers encamped on either side of the way; and in one place we passed a battery of heavy guns, drawn up in line, and pointed menacingly down the road towards Giurgevo. At about six miles from Bucharest we saw a large encampment upon our right; and at every few minutes we met a mounted Cossack, hurrying along as if he were the bearer of despatches. The lance which the Cossack carries is not longer than the English one, and has no flag; besides this, his other weapons are a heavy carbine slung at his back, a pistol stuck in his belt, and a long sword. His uniform is a blue frock-coat, buttoned up to the throat, and wide trousers of the same colour. He wears a high, conical-shaped shako, of black oilskin, without a peak, which is kept on his head by a strap fastened under his chin. The Cossack's horse is generally a wirey animal, of about 14½ hands high. His bridle is of a very rude construction. When the Cossack trots or gallops he leans forward in his saddle, with the upper part of his body quite straight—an attitude, one would suppose, the least suited for comfort, but he nevertheless sits his horse with extraordinary closeness.

It was about two o'clock in the afternoon when we came in sight of Bucharest, which, seen at a little distance appears a very handsome city.



GIURGEVO.



SECTIONAL VIEW OF THE INTERIOR OF A GREEK TOMB, AT CANOSA.

INTERESTING DISCOVERY OF GREEK TOMBS
AT CANOSA.

(From a Correspondent at Naples.)

THE year 1853 will be remembered as a remarkable one in the annals of archaeological history, for having been singularly productive. Whilst the Cumæan excavations are daily increasing in interest, M. Bonucci, director of Herculaneum, invites attention to the Necropolis of Canusium, a City of the Dead,* erected during the best period of Greek art, and containing an amount of antiquarian treasure far surpassing anything yet discovered in the Magna Græcia. In 1847 M. Bonucci first visited Canosa by order of the Government; but, owing to political events, no official report of his labours was made at the time; and it is only within the last few weeks that he has presented his drawings, with observations thereon, and received orders to continue the excavations. To the portfolio of this gentleman I am indebted for the accompanying drawings, which show the complete furniture of one of the most important Greek Tombs yet discovered.

The shores of the Italian peninsula have ever attracted the peoples of all nations, from the Pelasgians to the Normans. The country, therefore, is crowded with monuments of every age—

The intelligible forms of ancient faith,
The fair humanities of old religion.

The resting-places of the dead, ever more or less respected, afford the largest amount of antiquarian treasure, and assist us in forming an idea of the manners, customs, and art of a people to whose inspirations we still turn for instruction. Canusium was in its glory about 400 years before Christ, a period remarkable in Greek history for its arts-excellence; and the objects found in the funeral mansions of this city fully bear out the fame of their age.

I have before me a ground-plan of the large tomb at Canosa. You enter a vestibule, which opens into nine surrounding apartments, intended to receive the members of a Royal family. The building is of tufa rock, and the chambers are all painted with red, black, and yellow fresco decorations of a panel character, simple, and subservient to architectural demands. In each of these chambers were found vases, glass

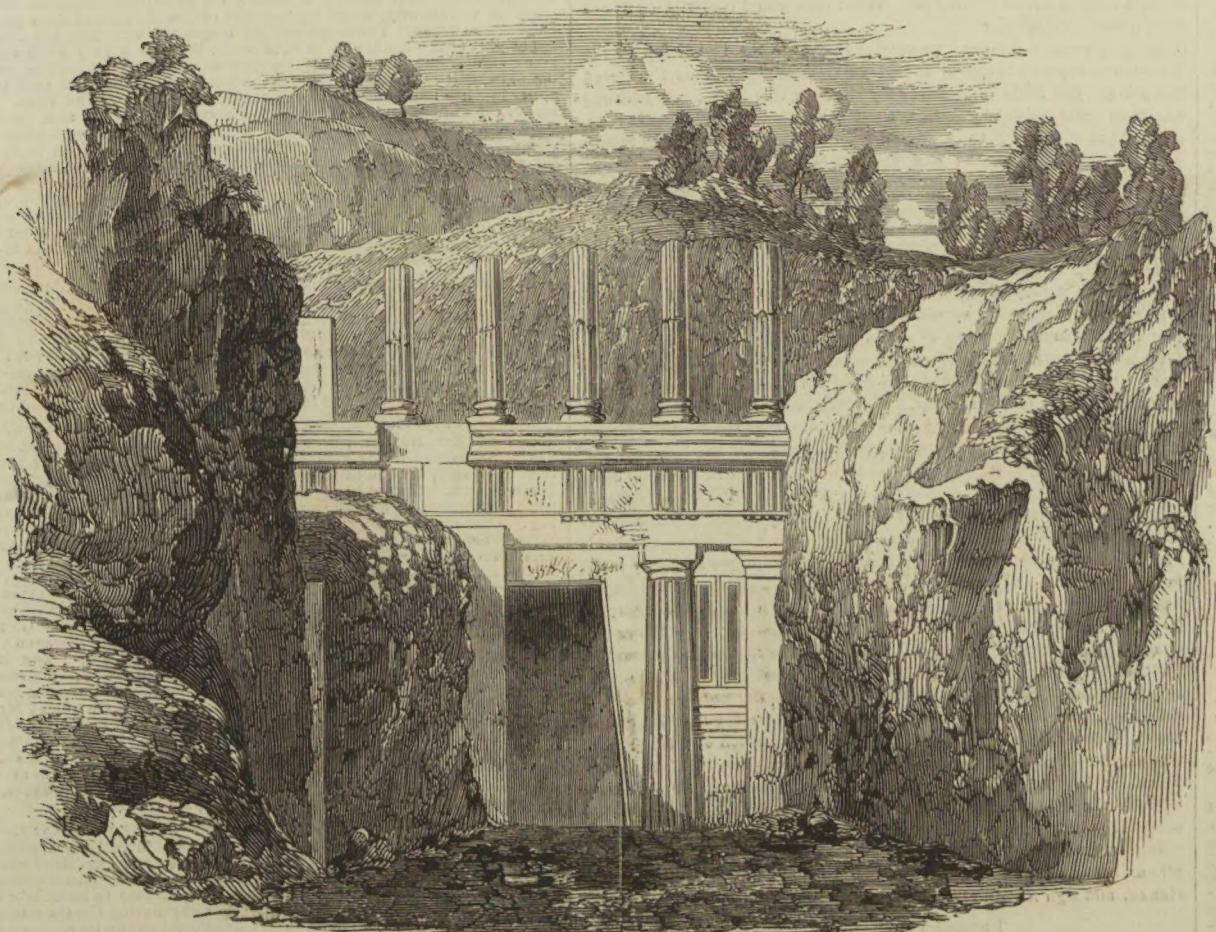
* For an account of the ancient Canusium, see Antonini's "La Lucania," and Mastriani's "Dizionario Storico-Geografico."

vessels, carved ivory, terra cottas, &c.; and in one (the subject of illustration) the complete furniture of a Greek tomb. Before, however, proceeding to describe this chamber, it is necessary to observe that the building has evidently been entered by the Romans, and one chamber even used by a Roman lady; for we find written on the wall—MEDELLA. DASM. F. SITA. AN. D. III. KAL. JAN. . . . C. PISONE. M. ACILIO. . . COS. The Romans entered the building by subterranean passages, and then broke into one room from the other; which accounts for some of the chambers containing so few objects, and showing evident signs of a rude intrusion. The exterior of this tomb is not yet excavated.

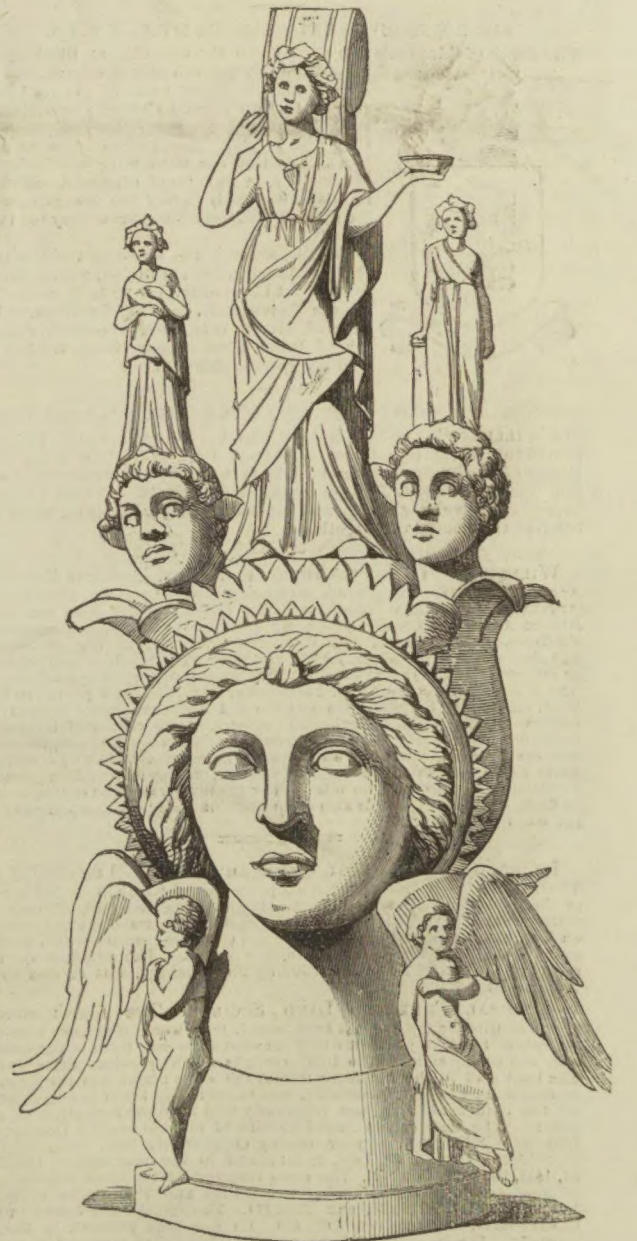
I must now explain the interior subject of illustration. All the objects were found just as they are placed, excepting the lamp, which had fallen.



CARVED IVORY ORNAMENT OF THE BRONZE BED FOUND AT CANOSA.



EXTERIOR OF A TOMB DISCOVERED AT CANOSA.



TERRA-COTTA VASE, FROM THE TOMBS OF CANOSA.

The body on the bed M. Bonucci has thought proper to restore, together with the cushions, as the remains of drapery and some fragments of gold ornaments afforded material for so doing. The side walls of the chamber are illuminated with painted paneling, in red, black, and yellow, intersected by Ionic columns. The end wall is decorated with floral offerings, designed on a yellow ground. The roof is painted to represent beams. On the floor were found fragments of fine gold thread, probably from the robe of the Royal body which reposed in so much state magnificence. In the centre of the chamber is seen a lectisternium of bronze, with ivory decorations. At the four corners of the bed were represented the seasons, or hours, exquisitely carved in ivory. (See Drawing of one with the reverse; a curious conceit; which will be easily understood by the

antiquary.) On the right is an important painted vase, elegant in form, but not enriched with figures. At the foot of the head are two terracotta objects, remarkably interesting. They are only found at Canosa. I send you a drawing of one still more important, but not from this tomb, as an illustration of their beautiful conceits and forms.* In the foreground is a cornucopia, and an elegant bronze cup. Near is a dwarf bronze table, on which was found a glass dish of wonderful workmanship, being a mosaic of coloured glass and pieces of gold. Here, also, were some small cups; and scattered about were discovered fruits and flowers of painted terra cotta. Some of the objects here named are in the Royal Museum of Naples, but many of the treasures found at Canosa have been bought by private individuals, whilst others are hid away, the Government at the time of their discovery having almost neglected (owing, as I said before, to political events) the most important monument of Greek art yet known. Such, however, I am assured, will not take place in future, and the authorities are now employed in hunting out the lost and hidden treasures of this tomb.

The lower illustration represents the façade of one of the Canosa tombs, not yet opened. They are built, and in some measure cut out, of the tufa or sand-stone which surrounds them. Such material being faced with a stucco, which was painted, as we see the buildings of Pompeii. But here we have colour used to magnify and contrast the parts of a building, and not simply to decorate.

M. Bonucci is preparing a very elaborate report of the Necropolis of Canosa; and ere long he will be again employed in uncovering those mansions of the dead, which illustrate the civilisation and art of a period which has claimed the respect and excited admiration in every succeeding age.

* M. Bonucci believes they are portraits, and the small heads and figures issuing therefrom are, in the first instance, the children; and, secondly, the geni, which are to accompany the soul to the Happy Islands. These terra cottas are peculiar to Canosa, and present an endless variety of conceits.

OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS.

SIR THOMAS THEOPHILUS METCALFE, BART.

INFORMATION has been received from India of the decease of another distinguished Civil Servant, Sir Thomas Theophilus Metcalfe, Bart. For more than forty years he had served in India, and never once during the long interval from his first arrival had revisited England. Nearly the whole of this period was spent at Delhi; there he passed through the successive grades of his profession, and there he died, Agent to the Governor-General and Commissioner of the District. The natives of all ranks deeply deplore his loss, and the Government will look in vain for a more assiduous or conscientious officer.

Sir Theophilus was born January 2, 1795, and succeeded to the baronetcy at the death, in 1846, of his distinguished brother, the late Lord Metcalfe. He married, first, in 1813, Grace, eldest daughter of Alexander Clarke, Esq., of Ruthven; but by her (who died in 1824) leaves no surviving issue. He married, secondly, Felicité Anne, eldest daughter of J. Browne, Esq., of the Bengal Medical Board; and by her (who died in September, 1842) had four daughters and two sons—the elder of whom, Sir Theophilus John Metcalfe, Bart., born November 28, 1828, is now 5th Baronet. The title was first conferred, in 1802, on Sir Thomas Metcalfe, the deceased's father, who served in a military capacity in the East Indies, and became a director of the East India Company.

SIR RICHARD JENKINS, G.C.B., D.C.L., F.R.A.S.

THE death of this gentleman occurred on the 30th ult., at Blackheath-park, in the sixty-ninth year of his age. Sir Richard, for many years in the civil service of the East India Company, was elected a Director in 1832, and filled the office of Chairman in 1839. The insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Bath were conferred on him in 1838, in requital of diplomatic services in India, especially during the Mahratta war. He sat in Parliament for Shrewsbury for 1830 to 1841.

Sir Richard was the eldest son of the late Richard Jenkins, Esq., of Bicton, county Salop, by Harriet Constantia, his wife, daughter of George Ravenscroft, Esq., of Wrexham. He married, March, 1824, Elizabeth-Helen, daughter of Hugh Spottiswoode, Esq., E.I.C.C.S., and had several children.

SIR WILLIAM LOWTHROP, OF ALGA HOUSE, SCARBOROUGH.

SIR WILLIAM died at Nice on the 19th ult. He was born in 1794, the second son of the late James Lowthrop, Esq., of Welton Hall, East Riding of Yorkshire. He married, in 1818, the fourth daughter of the late Thomas Riddell, Esq., of Kingston-upon-Hull. Of that borough he was an active magistrate, and served as Mayor in 1840, when he received the honour of knighthood.

WILLS.—The Will of the Right Hon. Mary, Dowager Baroness Arundell, has just been proved, bequeathing to her son, the Hon. Henry Arundell, a pecuniary legacy, and the residue to her son, the Hon. Robert Arthur Arundell, appointing him sole executor, having settled £5000 on her daughter, the Hon. Mary Neave, at her marriage; and has directed all plate, jewels, and portraits, to be held and descend as heir-looms in the family to whom they are respectively bequeathed. The Will of Sir George Ralph Fetherston, Bart., was first proved in Ireland, and now in London. He has devised his reversionary interest to estates in Brenagh, Lisdimagh, and Coolcaw, in the county of Longford, to his brother Thomas, subject to annuities of £200 by him bequeathed; and has devised his fee simple estates in the same county to his widow, Lady Frances Elizabeth, and, at her decease, to his great-nephew, George Fetherston. There are also a few other annuities; but the residue is left to Lady Fetherston, who is also sole executrix, and has administered to the will in both courts.

ISLINGTON EXTRAMURAL CEMETERY.—The poll demanded on Thursday last to decide as to the adoption or non-adoption of the report of the Burial Board, recommending the purchase from St. Pancras of thirty acres of their land at Finchley for an extramural cemetery, opened on Monday morning at eight o'clock, and continued open until Tuesday evening at six, at which hour it finally closed. The adoption of the report of the Burial Board, sanctioning the purchase, was carried by a majority of 607.

NATIONAL FREEHOLD LAND SOCIETY.—The fourth annual report of this society has just been issued, from which it appears that the receipts of the past year were fifty per cent more than those of the former one, and nearly equal to the total receipts of the previous three years. The land sold to the members during the same period was 150 per cent more than in the year preceding, and exceeded by £9000 the amount of all the land that had been previously sold from the formation of the society. The new shares issued in the 17 months ending October 31, 1850, were 5019; in the year ending October 31, 1851, 9831; in the year ending October 31, 1852, 22,251; and in the year ending October 31, 1853, they were 29,742. The sums received in the same four periods of time ascend in the following consecutive and progressive order.—£21,257, £96,137, £192,071, and £295,154. The society has issued in all 66,843 shares, and received £604,620. Its lots sold amount, in fine, to £229,672. The balance available for the purpose of dividend is ascertained to be more than sufficient to pay the usual rate of profit; and, consequently, for the past year a dividend of £5 8s. 4d. per cent annum has been carried to the account of all uncompleted shares not advanced. The balance of profit realised from estates, and which forms the guarantee fund, now amounts to £12,448.

THE FISH MARKET.—In consequence of the intense frost which has now prevailed for several days, the fish-market at Billingsgate has been supplied in a very limited manner. On Tuesday almost all the fish which arrived in the market was by rail, and that supply was limited in the extreme, and the prices were exorbitant—cod-fish being charged from 15s. to 25s. The only fish-vessel which took a berth at the market-pier on Tuesday was an oyster-vessel, all the other vessels, including the Dutch eel-boats, being obliged to keep in the Pool, and most of them compelled to dry and cook their fish, in order to make it saleable, for, by keeping it, the fish would become worthless. The regular fish-dealers, as well as the itinerant ones, were, in consequence, much disappointed.

LITERARY MISCELLANIES.—No. IX.

THE NEW YEAR'S DAY OF THE MODERNS; OR, AN OUTRAGE AGAINST THE SUN.

By M. MERY.

THE sun is always right—"Solem quis dicere falsum," says Virgil; and the children of the Nile, after four thousand years of sustained hostilities against "L'astre éclatant de l'univers," have ended by acknowledging their secular errors, and—under the protection of the Viceroy and English capitalists—by reconstructing Heliopolis, the City of the Sun. We, also, without becoming Persians or Incas, ought to open the year with a hymn of thanks to the sun, the brilliant destroyer of winter. Strange to say, in those very countries where the sun, by excessive heat, bred mortal plagues and fevers of all colours, he was gratefully worshipped, and the year was commenced with a splendid fête in his celebration, of which it is dazzling to read the official programme.

Les verrons nous encore à des tems révolus
Ces tableaux des Incas que notre enfance a lus
Aspect miraculeux! quand la lumière éclose
Argentait les vallons où coule le Potose,
Sous les palmiers sacrés tout un peuple béant,
Attendant à genoux le celeste Géant
Qui, prêt de s'élancer dans les brûlantes zones
Brisait ses lames d'or dans l'eau des Amazones!

Those happy Incas, they had a warm New-year's-day! They were wise, like the Egyptians, and began the year under the auspices of Janus—the King who created the month of January, and invented doors and locks. And thus proprietors, capitalists, bankers, Publicans, Scribes, and Pharisees—and, in fact, all law-makers—have maintained Janus in his ancient prerogatives, and given him the preference over all the saints of the Calendar. Be a saint who will, after that—to be elbowed out of his place by a sort of Pagan King of Yvetot! How encouraging, to be sure!

The fête of this King was the opening of the year: friends felicitated, embraced, and gave presents and *étrennes*; and, out of respect for this royal inventor of doors and locks, rich legislators have founded a custom which forces all the people of France to descend into the streets on this day, to present to each other their cheeks and their bonbons. The stupidity of the originators of custom, and the "rage" of their imitators, have never shone with more éclat. Not that we would reproach them for the bonbons they have caused to be given, and the cheeks they have caused to be moistened, on New-year's-day. Heaven forbid such a calumny! But we consider them to be eternally responsible for the colds, the pleurisies, the bent backs, the colics, the deaths, and all the tortures of this frightful day—day chosen in the dead of winter, in order not to displease Janus.

But this good King was not short-sighted, like Pharamond or Peter the Great. Janus reigned in Latium, where the 1st of January was a 1st of May; people could very well descend into the streets of Janopolis on that day, and moisten each other's cheeks with their sugary lips. The National Guard of the land of Saturn had no fear of being struck with cold or rheumatism for having done homage to King Janus on New-year's-day. Our silly founders of custom, our ignorant imitators of the antique, have made no allowances for differences of latitude and longitude. They compel us to celebrate upon the snow what the ancients celebrated beneath the sun, and that, too, in direct opposition to all the laws of common astronomy. What sort of year is it that opens on the 1st of January? One might be entirely ignorant of the very existence of the sun, and yet form a calendar not a whit more absurd. The year begins with the spring at the equinox of Mars; the year begins with the return of verdure and of the sun, when the earth decks herself with all her graces, embalmes herself with perfumes and adorns herself with smiles. It is then that we ought to exchange New-year delicatious, and make vows for the future, when Nature herself displays the green colours of Hope, and sets us the example.

Ah! it is custom! Who shall gainsay what custom decrees? Attempt to dethrone routine in France, with the best of reasons, and you shall fail. Routine lodges at the Hospital of Incurables, where she finds neither death nor cure. Silence to the paradox!

How Janus would laugh with his double face, if he witnessed the celebration of our first of January! The people of the south can form no idea of it. Paris is a lake of black mud, with numberless carriages floating about in it. Five hundred thousand sons or nephews grope amidst this Cocytus, on their way to embrace their fathers or uncles. An army of officers of the National Guard rolls like a wave in the eternal Rue St. Honoré—a wave of white epaulettes and blue faces! The slates of the roofs distil melted snow upon all these worshippers of Janus, and a million feet mingle it with the mud of the streets. The supply of all sorts of carriages is deficient; foot-passengers may be seen at every corner stretching out their arms to fugitive coachmen, like the shadows of Styx hailing a fleet of Charons. What idea would resuscitated Janus form of our civilisation?

We may even go further; we may even regard the institution of our New-year's-day as a revolt of the Christian Calendar against the sacred Scripture. The Bible is remarkably clear on this point, but the song has been sung to deaf people. What says the text. "In that time, God said to Moses and to Aaron in the land of Egypt: let this month be the first of your months and the first of the months of your year. Let the fourteenth of this month be your Passover, that is to say the 'passage' of the Lord."

The command is as clear as a ray of the sun of Heliopolis or the borealis of Thabor; and the makers of the Christian Calendar have no excuse; their date of inauguration is a sacrilege in figures. We begin our year by testifying our disdain or our forgetfulness of the word of God. After absurdity comes impiety. Let us no longer be astonished that we have so many years of storm and bloodshed, when we begin them all in denying the Bible and insulting the sun—the two eternal stars—the sacred lights of our eyes and of our hearts. And see to what extremities a bad example leads. The Israelites—that great and noble people—the chosen of the Lord—the Israelites, who received the law at Sinai, who were visited by the angels of heaven under the palm-trees of their tents in the desert, and were, in the earliest times, in direct communication with God—the Israelites, too, have forgotten what God said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt. They celebrate their New-year's-day on the equinox of September. For a Hygienic fête, this month is no doubt preferable to the month of January; and they have, in this particular, an advantage over us; but the disdain and the forgetfulness of precepts are the same with Jews as with Christians. See, too to what errors blindness leads us when we once depart from the sacred word! The makers of our absurd calendar were forced, on account of its disorderly nomenclature, to designate the last month of the year as if it were the tenth! December! Thus the number twelve is called ten. Two and two make five, according to the mathematics of the Calendar. Who can wonder, then, at the confusion of the affairs of this world?—that the Emperor of Russia has recommended the part of Theodor in 1853, amidst the full splendour of civilisation? We have it from the highest authority that, when the Lord knocks down the edifice, those that reconstruct it labour in vain.

However, be it well or ill begun, another year is behind us, and upon all our *cartes de visite* we might inscribe the following philosophical stanza, and sign it with the signature of "Eternity"—

Encore un an qui s'envole
Vers le gouffre du trepas,
Un an que le tems nous vole
Et qu'il ne nous rendra pas!

FINE ARTS.

THE DEPARTMENT OF PRACTICAL ART.

An Exhibition of the Works of the Schools of Design, in connection with the new Department of Practical Art, has been within the last few days, opened to public inspection at Gore House. The display is confined, however, to the performances of the London and various provincial schools (thirty-five in number), in the department of drawing and water-colour painting; the examples in the more important branches of modelling and applied design, being reserved for an Exhibition to be held later in the season. The exhibits, nevertheless, present many points worthy the consideration of those who take interest in the progress of the arts. Consisting chiefly of studies in perspective, and in wall decoration and flower painting, and a goodly array of ordinary school copies of ordinary school examples (the Laocoon, the Discobolus, &c.) they indicate that the heads of the Department perceive the necessity of directing a great part of their attention, at the outset of their labours, to instruction in the purely elementary parts of their subject—in writing, as it were, before even entering upon grammar. A circular, recently addressed by the Secretary of the Department to the masters of the schools in connection with it, on the importance of instruction in drawing, as a necessary branch of education, instead of as an accomplishment and as to the best means of affording such instruction, confirms and gives importance to this view of the question. With respect to the productions themselves—doubtless, picked specimens of the scholars of the various schools throughout the country—we must confess that they do not rise above the average efforts of boarding-school tyros; whilst many of them are so crude as to afford little hope of considerable amendment, more particularly in the case of pupils somewhat advanced in years—that is to say, verging upon thirty—whom it would be but just and charitable in the master to warn of the futility of their attempts in a newly-adopted field. Another point upon which we entertain something stronger than a doubt, is as to the expediency of awarding medals at all in this stage of art-progress. The selection of prize subjects from amongst a mass of pretty even mediocrity, must always be a difficult and thankless task; and, in the present instance, appears to have been done capriciously. We could point out many of these copy-sheets to which medals have been awarded, which, in our humble opinion, are not so good as very many after the same originals, which have not been similarly rewarded, nor even "highly commended;" or one or two notably of the Discobolus, which are completely out of drawing. Indeed, we are not quite sure but that the unhappy efforts consigned to a side-room, as "not eligible for competition for medals," might have competed very successfully with the rest, if their case were thrown open to general suffrage. We may add that it would give additional interest to the examination of Exhibitions of this kind, if the heads of the Department were to issue a report upon the progress indicated in it, accompanied by a catalogue; or, at least, a reference to the principal subjects.

We make no apology for these remarks, as all that concerns the management of this new and experimental "Department" becomes daily of increasing importance; more particularly since the Treasury minutes issued in April last, by which it seems probable that it is to be extended in its sphere of operation, by including within its province the so-called "kindred and analogous institutions" of the Government School of Music and Science, the Museum of Practical Geology, the Geological Survey, the Museum of Irish Industry, and the Royal Dublin Society—the official denomination being again to be changed to "The Board of Trade Department of Science and Art." In this great country, if we are to have a department of this kind, it should be comprehensive in its scope, and efficient and authoritative in action, to the fullest extent possible in such matters.

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY.

The Annual Exhibition of this Society was opened on Tuesday evening, at the Suffolk-street Gallery, by a soirée, which was numerously attended by the admirers of the interesting art to the promotion of which it is devoted. The walls were hung with numerous specimens of most successful achievement in every class of subject—portrait, landscape, architectural, and *genre*. In the portrait class, we particularly remarked some admirable miniatures, daguerrotypes by Beard, and finished afterwards by artists in oil and water-colours—a manifest and important improvement upon the mere sun process; giving character and feeling where artistic taste could alone supply it, and softening asperities which the accidents of nature can never be entirely free from.

Her Majesty and Prince Albert honoured the exhibition with a private visit in the morning. The Royal party, and suite, consisting of Lady Jocelyn, Colonel Bouvier, and Lieutenant-Colonel F. Seymour, were received by Professor Wheatstone, Mr. Robert Hunt, and other members of the Council of the Society, who conducted them through the rooms. Her Majesty appeared to take a deep interest in the superb specimens of the several classes of the photographic art which the collection contains, and remained in the Gallery upwards of an hour.

We take this opportunity of correcting a verbal error into which we fell last week when noticing a similar exhibition in New Bond-street. That exhibition is of the Photographic Institution, not Society, as we described it.

CONSCIENCE MONEY.—The following is the account of the advertised amount, during each month of the last year, of the sums received by the Chancellor of the Exchequer from anonymous correspondents, for unpaid taxes.—January, £123 2s. 2d.; February, £115, March, £60; April, £69 17s. 6d.; May, £918 19s. 8d.; June, £1661 18s. 4d.; July, £164 16s.; August, £65 13s. 6d.; September, £15; October, £83 15s. 10d.; November, £60; December, £220 11s. 6d. Total—£4758 14s. 6d.

ANOTHER MEGATHERIUM.—A discovery of great interest to the science of paleontology has lately been made at the gates of Constantina (Algeria), while making a cutting for the improvement of the approaches to that city, where a great part of the skeleton of some gigantic animal was found. The thigh and leg bones, the vertebra, the ribs, the upper part of the head, and several teeth, were in a very good state of preservation. The head is not less than 85 centimetres from the teeth to the nape, and 48 across the bone of the forehead. The front part of the upper jaw has long teeth, and also tusks, similar to a wild boar. The legs of the animal are about the size of those of a horse; and, from the bend of the ribs, it is supposed that its size must have been about four times that of an ordinary ox. Its head is somewhat similar to that of the hippopotamus, and its mouth must have been of extraordinary power. No name can be assigned to this animal; but it is considered probable that it may belong to the numerous family of antediluvian pachydermes. The ground wherein it was found is composed of a soft calcareous rock of tertiary formation. It is expected that the Government will order some further excavations to be made on the same spot, which may lead to other discoveries interesting to science.

IMPROVEMENTS IN BROMPTON.—A number of improvements are about to be made in Brompton and its neighbourhood. The Royal Commissioners promise several new and extensive public roads. Mr. Furlar, proprietor of a great part of Brompton-square, has also given notice to make a new road from the end of the square into the road leading to Prince's-gate, Knightsbridge, and so on to the Kensington-road. A great improvement has been made at the end of Brompton-crescent, next to Fulham-road, by the removal of the iron bars which stood there.

THE IRVINGITE CHURCH IN GORDON-SQUARE.—The followers of the late Rev. Edward Irving, who lately assembled at Newman-street, having adjourned to the magnificent Gothic church erected for them in Gordon-square, that building was solemnly opened on Sunday morning at ten o'clock. At that hour precisely, "the Angel," as he is termed, entered, magnificently attired in a purple cape and other insignia of authority. Then followed the "Prophets," wearing blue stoles, typical of the skies, whence they draw their inspiration. After these came "Evangelists," clothed in red, denoting the blood which flowed at Calvary; and, last of all, followed pastors, elders, and other officers. A Liturgy was used very similar to that of the Church of England, from which there appeared to be very little doctrinal deviation. A sermon was preached by one of the elders, who inculcated various moral duties. The "Gloria in Excelsis" composed by Miss Mills, was given with great power on a very splendid organ, which has been erected in the south aisle; and in the "Te Deum," Master Wild (son of Mr. Wild, the engraver), executed various portions of it with wonderful precision. Amongst the office-bearers of the church in London may be mentioned Admiral Gambier; Mr. H. Drummond, M.P.; the Hon. Henry Parnell; Mr. J. P. Knight, R.A. Mr. Cooke, the barrister; Major Macdonald, &c.; while Lady Dawson Lady Bateman, Lady Anderson, and other ladies of distinction, are amongst its members. Those who join this church offer a tenth of their annual income towards its support and extension, and this promise, it is believed, is, year after year, rigidly and faithfully kept.

POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE ORKNEY ISLANDS.—Mr. James Wilson, M.P., Secretary to the Treasury, in reply to a memorial from Newcastle upon Tyne, states that their Lordships are prepared to make an experiment for two years of a steam postal communication from Scrabston-pier to Stromness; the service to be daily during the six months of summer, and every other day during the six months of winter, Sundays excepted; and to be commenced on the 1st of April next.

The attraction of the Dublin Winter Garden (late the Exhibition building) continues as great as ever: on Tuesday last the number that entered were 2000 in excess of those present at the opening.

THE SNOW STORM.—THE WEATHER.

The specimen we have already had of 1854 shows that it is destined to be a remarkable year, so far as regards the weather. Towards the close of last week the signs of an early and severe winter had begun to manifest themselves in a very unequivocal manner, but it was not till Monday that it assumed its most rigorous form. On Saturday night a great quantity of snow fell, which had the effect of rendering the streets exceedingly slippery, and thereby causing a number of accidents. Its effect on the ice in Regent's-park, Hyde-park, Kensington-gardens, and St. James's-park, was to make it as smooth as any skater could desire, as was evident by the crowds who were practising on the Serpentine and every other available spot. Throughout the greater part of Sunday, the Parks were crowded with well-dressed visitors, especially on the north bank of the Serpentine, and along most of the drives and promenades in Hyde-park and Kensington-gardens.

The coldest night experienced in this country for many years was on Monday. Such was its severity, that two constables attached to the metropolitan police force were found frozen to death on Tuesday morning in the neighbourhood of Hounslow. The thermometer fell to 15°, being 14° lower than on Thursday night, when the mercury indicated 16½° Fahrenheit. On Tuesday morning the glass was quite as low as on the preceding night; but, during the middle of the day, the quicksilver rose as high as 30°; and in the evening, at five o'clock, it stood at 31°, but shortly after that hour it again fell to 20°. The barometer at the same time stood at 29.99. The wind blew tremendously in the early part of the day from east to north-east; but between seven and eight o'clock in the evening it veered towards the south-west, from which it was inferred that a thaw was about to take place; but, instead of that, we were visited by one of the severest snow-storms which has been witnessed in London for the last quarter of a century. Such was its force by half-past ten o'clock that the Strand and other principal thoroughfares were almost entirely deserted. Many of the omnibuses ceased running before their usual hour, and even those which did persist crawled along at a very slow pace.

The snow continued to fall during the greater part of the night, and on Wednesday morning it was from nine to twelve inches in depth, even in places where no drifting had taken place. In exposed situations, the wreaths of snow were from three to four feet in depth. Throughout the whole day the streets had a most singular appearance. In the morning, especially, London seemed almost like a deserted city. Along the Strand and Fleet-street very few vehicles were to be seen, and those which did make their appearance passed along silently, the snow being so deep as to drown the customary rattle of the wheels. Very few of the omnibuses risked the journey in the early part of the day; indeed, the long distance ones did not attempt to run at all, with the exception of those to Richmond, which, by means of three horses to each, managed to get along at a reasonable pace. Some of the Paddington ones, with due regard to the frightful ascent of Holborn-hill, ran with four horses, a postilion riding on one of the foremost. Single-horse cabs were unable to pass through many of the streets; and, therefore, some of the enterprising Jehus harnessed an additional animal in front, and drove tandem fashion. As might naturally be expected under these circumstances, an adherence to the ordinary fares was out of the question. The long stage omnibuses, instead of 6d., charged 1s. and 1s. 6d., and the twopenny omnibuses along Holborn and Oxford-street raised their fares to 6d. Cabs were difficult to procure at any price, the ranks being almost entirely deserted. "Cabby" arguing, and in this instance with justice, that "once upon the rank he would be nailed for the sixpence, which wouldn't pay such weather." Those vehicles, therefore, which were out, were generally hired direct from the yards, or picked up whilst loitering about so as to make their own terms with the hirer. The railway stations were as deserted as the street stands, and passengers arriving from the country were frequently compelled to leave their luggage at the stations, and proceed on foot to their various destinations. In some instances as much as 5s. was given for cabs for a distance barely exceeding a mile.

Through out the whole of Wednesday the narrow streets in the City, where so much carriage is usually employed, were rendered utterly impassable for almost any vehicle, there being so little room for the mass of snow shovelled off the pavements. Even along the Strand and other wide thoroughfares the heaps of snow on each side of the street rendered driving very hazardous in the evening. In Lombard-street, a number of men were employed in carrying off the snow in carts. In the Parks, the skaters were not numerous; a few very zealous members of the Skaters' Club, having had the snow cleared away, made an attempt, but their performances were not such as to excite admiration.

As evening drew on the omnibuses gradually decreased in number, until at nine o'clock they had entirely ceased running, and the streets relapsed into a state of silence, alike unwonted and monotonous at such an hour; the silence being the more marked from the fact that few of the heavy waggons employed in the heavy goods traffic of the railways were (or had been) abroad, those that were visible requiring five or six horses to do work for which three or four would have been sufficient under ordinary circumstances, and for one or two waggons which ascended Holborn-hill eight horses were found to be necessary.

The various theatres and other places of amusement suffered to a great extent on Wednesday night on account of the weather. Most of the houses presented little more than empty buildings. The Wednesday Evening Concert at Exeter-hall was entirely discontinued for the evening, it being found impracticable for the carriages conveying the company to approach the building.

The most serious injury which the public are likely to suffer from a continuance of such inclement weather would arise from the dearth of coals. The condition of the river below London-bridge is now such that the colliers in the Pool cannot discharge their cargoes, the barges being in almost every instance frozen in, or so jammed up as to render it impossible to carry on the ordinary operations. The directors of several of the leading gas companies met on Wednesday for the purpose of determining what was best to be done under the circumstances. No decision was arrived at; and the only hope was that the severity of the weather might moderate. Many of the small coal dealers in poor neighbourhoods at once took advantage of the state of the weather, and put an extra 2d., and in some places 4d., per cwt. upon the price of coals, which must have been severely felt by their poor customers. The Rev. W. McCall, Incumbent of St. Mary, St. George's-in-the-East, while calling attention to the state of the poor generally—in his own parish there are 3000 persons in a state of the deepest distress—says that coals are selling at 2s. 9d. per cwt., or 55s. per ton.

On nearly all the principal railways, the excessive depth of snow which drifted into the cuttings during the storm caused a serious interruption to the traffic. The London and South-Western Railway was almost the only line on which the trains arrived on Wednesday any way near their time; and, even on it, the mail-train was four hours late.

LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.—Early on Wednesday morning a telegraphic message from Tring announced that the up line was blocked in the cutting, and the down line in a very bad state, a luggage train, followed by the mail train, being almost embedded in the snow. Several hundred men were at once set to work to clear the line, but, after several hours' arduous labour, only partially succeeded. The first train from Northampton was considerably behind time. The snow had drifted three feet high in the streets of Northampton. The train from Wolverton, due at nine, arrived at twelve. At half-past twelve came in the mail train from Liverpool and Manchester, eight hours behind its time. At the Tring cutting, the train came to a dead block, and remained embedded in the snow five hours. Ultimately, it was found necessary to go back to the next station, and shift the train to the down rails, along which it finished its journey. The other trains continued to arrive during Wednesday, from one to two hours behind their time.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY.—A message by electric telegraph early on Wednesday morning intimated that the line on both sides of Grantham was completely blocked, and all traffic impossible between Peterborough and Newark. The first train arriving was from Peterborough, at seven o'clock, due at 4.15 a.m. At ten o'clock two other short distance trains arrived, one of them about an hour and a half late. A train from Peterborough, due at eleven, arrived at 12.45. At three o'clock in the afternoon a second telegraphic message was received, stating that the line between Newark and Peterborough was still completely blocked, and that the snow, which had continued throughout the day, was then falling faster than ever. The down trains started at the usual times, but the company declined to book passengers further than Peterborough. A telegraphic message at eight o'clock stated that traffic between Peterborough and Newark was still impossible—the loop line not being open, and the main line remaining closed; notwithstanding the exertions made to clear it; the snow in the cuttings having accumulated to an almost uniform depth of six feet.

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.—The great obstruction along this line commenced at Ashford, the line from whence to Dover was blocked so early on Tuesday night, that the mail-train, which left London at eight p.m., and ought to have arrived at Dover about eleven p.m., was delayed until half-past nine on Wednesday morning—ten hours behind its time. The up-mail from Dover, due at London-bridge at 8.6 a.m., on Wednesday, did not arrive until 12.30 p.m.; while, up to three o'clock, no train whatever had arrived from Ramsgate, Margate, or Canterbury. All the other up-trains were considerably late; but the down-trains were despatched at the times fixed. On the North Kent branch the snow drifted to an almost uniform depth of six feet. Large bodies of men were employed all Wednesday in clearing the line.

EASTERN COUNTIES RAILWAY.—Immense masses of snow were hurled into the cuttings by the storm early in the morning, and special engines containing large numbers of labourers were despatched down the line for the purpose of clearing the rails. In the Chertsey cutting four luggage trains were completely embedded in the snow, with the mail

train from Yarmouth, Norwich, and Cambridge, due in London at 4.15 a.m., waiting behind them. The only down traffic during Wednesday was from Shorehitch to Broomhouse, Hertford, and intermediate stations, the first train being despatched at ten instead of eight o'clock. On the Eastern Union line, from Colchester to Ipswich and Norwich, traffic was entirely suspended. A telegraphic communication at nine o'clock in the evening from Chertsey, announced that the line at that point was still completely blocked up with snow, and that all endeavours to clear the rails had up to that hour failed. An attempt had been made to force a train drawn by eight engines through the snow; but after proceeding half a mile it came to a dead stand. At that time eight trains were embedded in the snow at Chertsey. The Norwich mail arrived at the Shorehitch-station on Wednesday night fourteen hours behind its time.

WINDSOR.—All the thoroughfares of the town and approaches to the Castle were completely blocked up by the snow on Wednesday, and every cart that could be obtained was engaged in removing the obstructions. The trains on the Great Western and South-Western railways were stopped downwards. The first train to Windsor was two hours behind time, although five engines behind and two before were engaged in forcing the carriages through the snow on the line between Waterloo and Vauxhall. The great accumulation of snow at this point is attributable to the high parapet wall, acting as a dam against the north-easterly drift. The regular working on the line was not resumed till after two o'clock in the afternoon. The principal stoppage on the Great Western line was at West Drayton, where the snow had drifted to an alarming extent.

BIRMINGHAM, JAN. 4.—The train with the morning papers was more than two hours later than usual; up to five this afternoon not a single train has arrived from Liverpool since last night; the Bristol and Birmingham line is still open, but on the Derby line no more trains are to be started "until further orders." The Stour Valley line is open, but the trains have all been greatly impeded; on the Chester line the snow had drifted near Llangollen, so that it was late before any trains reached Shrewsbury. At six to eight the snow was still falling heavily, and as it lies deep a few miles off, there are doubts whether the express will be able to make its way. On Monday night here the thermometer stood within four of zero.

MANCHESTER, WEDNESDAY EVENING.—There is no express-train from here to London to-night, as the line is closed by snow. No London papers have arrived in Manchester to-day. The train which should have brought them, is embedded in the snow between Crewe and Stafford, nor has any train arrived here from Birmingham or London since the early mail this morning. Several trains from the south and west are stopped at Crewe. There has been no communication from Manchester towards London beyond Stockport. On the Lancashire and Yorkshire line passenger trains are embedded at Middleton, and another beyond Rochdale. All traffic on the Bolton line is stopped; and the East Lancashire line is blocked up beyond Bury. The traffic on the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire line is stopped at Guide-bridge; and three luggage trains are embedded in snow at Glossop, one on the Stockport, and one on the Staleybridge branch. The North Staffordshire line is blocked up at Macclesfield. The snow, in some places on the line, is said to be sixteen feet deep. In many places in Manchester it is a yard deep. The snow fell all day, with fierce wind from north-east by east, but ceased to snow about eight at night, and the wind fell at ten. Two hundred men have been employed all day endeavouring to open a cutting near Whitmore; but the wind blows snow into the cutting so fast that little progress is made. Eleven passenger-trains due. Many persons residing only a dozen miles from Manchester cannot get home. Some of the "busses" running only a few miles have had six horses attached; but scarcely a vehicle of any kind is running now.

SHIELDS, JAN. 3.—The weather in this district has been intensely cold during the past five or six days, a hard black frost binding the earth in an iron grasp. The thermometer was 21 degrees below the freezing point this morning, and the hill districts west and north of the coast are well covered with snow. The Wear at Durham is frozen over, and hundreds of persons were skating on the ice yesterday, and great blocks of ice are in that river below Victoria-bridge. The Tyne is also frozen over above Tyne-bridge; and if this weather keeps, we may expect the passage to be blocked up below Newcastle.

REMARKABLE VARIATION IN THE TEMPERATURE.—The following circumstance is hardly known to be paralleled in the annals of meteorology. On Friday last night the cold was so intense that, by a self-registering thermometer, the temperature was found to be down to 18 degrees Fahrenheit, 14 degrees below freezing point. Next morning, at half-past nine, the temperature had risen to 38, being a variation of 20 degrees in a few hours. The change was accompanied by heavy rain.—*Exeter Gazette.*

DEAL, WEDNESDAY, 10.30 A.M.—It has been blowing a very heavy gale the whole of last night from S.S. by E., and still continues. No mail was despatched from here last night, in consequence of the heavy fall of snow and the extreme severity of the weather. A vessel is observed to be on shore on the Goodwin Sands, apparently a galliot, and will become a wreck. Great fears are entertained for the safety of the crew. No boats can proceed from Deal to her assistance.

SNOW STORMS IN THE NORTH.—The Perth road has been pretty clear as yet, says the *Inverness Courier* of the 29th ult., and the mail arrived yesterday and to-day only about four hours behind the regular time. On the Aberdeen road the storm has been more seriously felt. Yesterday the mail due at five a.m. did not arrive till more than twelve hours after the time, and then the bags were carried on horseback from Forres. All the coaches plying on this road have been stopped. The mail going to Aberdeen yesterday could get no further than Nairn; the Star coach stuck in the snow at Auldearn; and the Defiance, which left here as usual this morning, turned back after going three miles. From Aberdeen the mail got as far as New-mills, near Forres. Here the guard was obliged to leave it. All trace of the road was in many places lost, and it was everywhere impassable for a vehicle. He succeeded, by dint of perseverance and good management, in carrying the mails safely on horseback to Inverness. The wind was northerly, and blew strong, and the snow consequently drifted about very much. About 100 men are engaged at various points clearing the road, and it is hoped, if the storm does not increase, that the coaches may be able to resume the communication in a short time. The north mail came in last night very little behind the usual hour, but it brought only the bags from Tain; from which we may infer that the Ord of Caithness and other important parts of the North Road are impassable. The steamers arrived about the usual time. A correspondent at Elgin writes that the district is suffering severely from a heavy fall of snow, and that, in consequence, all modes of conveyance have become irregular in their arrival, particularly from Inverness. In Forres the storm was very severe and protracted. Men are out in all directions cutting the roads; and, should it keep fair, they will be passable in a day or two. The accounts from other parts of the country are generally to the same effect.

GLASGOW.—Last Saturday and Sunday the cold continued intense, with a hard frost and biting wind; and the thermometer has been lower, we believe, than for some years. The Clyde between bridges was covered with large floes of ice on Sunday, and if the frost continues will be impassable.

PARIS, MONDAY.—On some parts of the Strasburg Railway and the Monteraux and Troyes Railway, circulation became suspended on Friday week, owing to the snow, but was soon resumed. An accident, which has before happened on several lines of telegraph, prevented the price of the Funds at the Paris Bourse from reaching Rouen. The wires of the electric telegraph broke under the action of the glacial temperature of the weather, and the transmission of despatches was, for some time, impossible between Paris and Rouen. As soon as this was discovered, employes were sent to remedy the rupture as promptly as possible. Another cause of derangement, however, occurred in the service of the electric telegraph. The snow which fell on the wires melted by the action of the sun, and then forming into icicles, united the wires, and thus becoming conductors, the despatch intended for one place passed on to another wire, and thus arrived at a false destination. Even at Marseilles the thermometer has fallen as low as five degrees below zero—a fall which was preceded by vivid lightning and a great deal of distant thunder. At Bordeaux, the Garonne, notwithstanding its breadth and the strength of the current, is thickly beset with ice. At Lyons, on Friday last, the cold was as great as during the most severe winters on record; and the same at Nevers. In the north the water-courses are all frozen over.

BRUSSELS, DEC. 30.—I have just been informed that the Liege and Brussels train, due on Friday morning, is blocked up by the snow, near Landen; and the Brussels and Ghent one has been obliged to return, after having reached Malines.

VIENNA, DECEMBER 30.—As there has been a very heavy fall of snow during the night, and the wind is high, it is highly probable that we shall be entirely cut off from all postal communication with foreign places for the next day or two. The winters in this country are generally very severe, but it has rarely happened that in the month of December the thermometer has been so low as is now the case. Some officers who came in yesterday evening from Wiener Neustadt (about twenty-seven or twenty-eight English miles from this city), assured me that a thermometer (Reaumur's scale), when plunged into a mountain stream which flows near that town, had shown eighteen degrees below zero, a temperature of which people in England can form but an imperfect idea. It is not surprising, therefore, that sentries are frequently frozen to death on their posts; although, when the weather is unusually cold, they are relieved every hour. The Russians remark that they suffer far more from the cold in Austria than in their own country; and this is easily accounted for. When the temperature is very low in Russia, there is rarely any wind; but the very reverse is the case here.

NEW YORK.—Snow commenced falling in the vicinity of New York, on the 19th December, and continued until it was about three inches in depth.

EPITOME OF NEWS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC

The First Lord of the Admiralty has accepted the office of President of the Shipwrecked Mariners' Royal Benevolent Society, vacant by the decease of the late Sir George Cockburn, Bart., G.C.B.

By the death of Mr. Cannon, formerly resident magistrate in the county Limerick, a pension of £500 a year reverts to the Crown.

The King of Prussia went in person, on the 27th ult., to pay a visit of condolence to the family of General de Radowitz.

A new iron passenger screw steamer, the *Prince of Wales*, was launched last week from the building-yard of Simons and Co., Whiteinch, on the Clyde—she is about 600 tons burthen, and very strongly constructed.

The *Giornale di Roma* of the 21st ult. announces that the Pope has conferred a Cardinal's hat upon M. Pecci.

The Town-council of Dundee have agreed to subscribe five guineas to the testimonial about to be erected to M. Bellot. The Trinity House of Dundee has also subscribed £3.

On Monday morning, Mr. Richard H. Miller, an extensive cattle dealer, residing at Swindon, died suddenly on arriving at the Great Western station: he was seventy years old.

The French Government has just presented the Royal Library at Stockholm with a copy of the "Chalcographie du Musée Imperial," in eighty-five volumes. The Royal Library has, in its turn, sent to Paris 100 volumes of manuscript and rare printed works.

The Duke of Buccleuch, the Marquis of Londonderry, or the Marquis of Westminster, are spoken of as likely to fill the complimentary mission of Ambassador Extraordinary on the occasion of the nuptials of the Emperor of Austria and the Princess of Bavaria.

The Council of the Society of Arts announce that, on the 20th of January next, in accordance with the will of the late Dr. Swiney, "a silver goblet, of the value of £100, containing gold coin to the same amount," will be awarded "to the author of the best published work on Jurisprudence."

The Prussian Minister of Commerce has authorised the opening, in the spring, of a regular line of steam communication between Dantzic, Hull, and London.

At the sale of a vessel by Mr. Jackson, auctioneer, of Whitehaven, at the Albion Hotel, recently, one of the bidders, who was in Glasgow at the time, actually made his biddings by telegraph.

It is stated that Dr. Hincks is about to abandon his efforts to decipher the Babylonish inscriptions copied by Layard, in consequence of the discouragement of the Government, and of the efforts of the friends of Colonel Rawlinson.

A large farm has been taken at Nursling, Hants, for the purpose of rearing live stock for the Southampton steam-packets. The *Cressus*, for Australia, will be supplied with poultry, pigs, sheep, and cows from this farm. The live stock to this ship will cost nearly £1000.

Mr. George Cream is appointed surgeon and medical attendant of the convict settlement at Allasserony, British Guiana.

Viscount Palmerston has addressed a letter to the Lord-Lieutenants of counties, on the subject of the mess expenses in militia regiments. His Lordship is of opinion that their mess charges should not exceed those of the line, which do not amount to more than 2s. 6d. per diem.

The grand memorial in honour of the first President of the Republic in Washington proceeds apace. It is now 150 feet high. Since the works were commenced, it has been discovered that the monument will stand exactly in the centre of "the ten miles square."

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce has transmitted to Lloyd's copies of proceedings on the trial of a pilot, which is of considerable importance to the shipping interest. The local Government evince a determination to protect the owners of vessels in future from bad conduct on the part of the pilot.

Monday was very generally observed as a half-holiday in Manchester, in consequence of New-year's-day falling on the Sunday.

The Prussian Government has refused a concession to a company of English shareholders for the construction of a railway from Hamburg to the Hague.

The journeymen confectioners of New York have struck for an advance of wages. They now receive 9 dollars a week (37s. 6d.), and they ask an increase of 25 per cent, which would give them 46s. 10½d.

Salt pork is now imported in large quantities into this country from Portugal, and fetches higher prices than Irish salt pork.

The Bay of Tripoli has informed the British Government that until the gathering in of the new crops, the exportation of wheat will be prohibited from all parts of that province.

The London and North-Western Railway Company have determined on adopting a system of quarterly contract tickets between the principal towns upon their line.

The Emigration Commissioners have advertised for two vessels for emigrants: one, for Sydney, is to be ready on the 14th; the other, for Adelaide, on the 17th of February.

The Victoria-bridge, Glasgow, was opened on Monday last—the magistrates, bridge-trustees, and other authorities, with a great concourse of people, taking part in the display.

The Lisbon Board of Health have given permission for suspected vessels bound to Oporto to call at Arriero or Vianna, to be examined and passed.

The London deliveries of tea for the week to which the latest official returns are completed were 434,204 lbs., being about 100,000 lbs. less than in the preceding week.

An extensive wet dock, of 23 acres, is to be constructed on the north bank of the Tyne, with a deep-water entrance of 23 feet. A similar wet dock is also proposed to be established in connexion with the railway at Maryport.

The trustees of the Isle of Man Bank for Savings, in Douglas, have guaranteed any deficiency which may arise in consequence of the fund being deposited in the Messrs. Holmes's bank, who have become bankrupts.

In the last twelve months, 1043 sea apprentices have been bound at the Shields Custom-house. In 1852, 913 only were articulated for sea in the same establishment.

The lectures at the University of Copenhagen will henceforth be delivered in the Danish, instead of, as hitherto, in the Latin tongue.

Sir Charles Hotham, the recently appointed Governor of Victoria, intends leaving England for Australia in the *Cressus*, which will sail on the 10th instant. This will be her first voyage.

The *Fingal*, from Quebec for Liverpool, was abandoned 21st December. Her crew were taken off by the *Eucine*. The chief mate of the *Fingal* was washed overboard a few days previous.

The Post-office authorities have made arrangements for running a day mail through the Potteries; and the offer of the North Staffordshire Railway Company to convey the night mail is under consideration.

The Ipswich borough police-officers are to be allowed to wear moustaches and beards. They preferred a request to the watch-committee for that purpose, which was readily granted. Some of the committee intend, it is said, adopting the moustache themselves.

A body of men is being organized in New York, to assist the Turks.

A fire at Bradford, Yorkshire, has caused a loss of some £50,000. The principal sufferers are Messrs. Berwick and Co., and Messrs Broadbent and McCrobin, stuff-merchants.

No Belgians or other foreigners can now enter France from Belgium, without having their passports *visé* at the French Embassy at Brussels.

A verdict of 10,000 dols. damages had been given against the *New York Herald* for a libel upon the management of the New York Italian Opera.

A monster nugget of copper, weighing about a ton, has been dug out of the Summerhill mine in Australia. The miners there earn about £5 a week.

A new and elegant translation of Sir W. Scott's novels is appearing in Stockholm. Each volume contains a whole romance, and costs only 2s.

The farm of Cassius M. Clay, the well-known American Abolitionist, who emancipated his slaves eight years ago, is now yielding him profitable returns, whereas it used to run him in debt.

There is to be a great Industrial Exhibition in Christiania next summer, to which all Norway will contribute specimens of its produce.

Since the discovery of gold in California, 600 vessels have gone round Cape Horn, and never returned. A few of them have been lost but the greater number have been employed in the Pacific trade.

The *Bulletin de Paris* says that a complete revision of the French Customs tariff, on liberal principles, is in preparation.

The gold-miners in California are said to be making from four to ten dollars a day. On the 4th November, an eleven-pound nugget of solid gold was taken from a claim at Minnesota.

A meeting of the coal-miners of Fife has been held at Cross-gates, to petition Parliament for an eight hours' labour bill, and for an extension to Scotland of the law of coroners' inquests as connected with coal-workings.

Baron Agel, who has been for eighteen years Minister Plenipotentiary of Holland at Paris, is just withdrawn from public life, on a pension.



THE POST-BOY.



THE MAIL-COACH.



THE MAIL-TRAIN.

THE POST IN THE SNOW.

THE incidents of the last few days—the severe frost, the heavy snow-storms, filling up ditches, burying hedges in white round ramparts, and piling up deep snow-drifts in the exposed entrances of narrow valleys—have come upon us almost by surprise. Years have passed since we experienced anything like it. In some districts coach and horse travelling has been altogether brought to a stand-still; in others, the rarely seen four-in-hand, or four horses with a burly groom as postilion, has been called into activity to drag coaches and omnibuses through the deep roads. The posts are all behind-hand—we wait impatiently for an hour or two past the time when we are accustomed to settle the business of the day by our letters. In Wales, in Devonshire, in Cornwall—where railways have not yet penetrated—the mails have been stopped in more than one district. Even on railroads it has required the expansive power of the express engine to force a way through deep drifts; and, in some instances, a clear road could not be made for heavily loaded trains until ploughs, helped by a gang of labourers, had been set to work. Fortunately, we enjoy, this winter, one great advantage of the railway system, in the facility for concentrating labour on the spots where it is most needed. Our illustration shows the mail-train at a stand-still, blowing off its steam in the face of a heavy drift; the passengers, no doubt, impatient at the delay; yet how comfortable their condition in contrast with that of passengers by the old mail coaches!

Our two Pictures of the Post-Boy and the Mail-Coach illustrate incidents in the life of a friend, who looks, with no small satisfaction, on the present post system, as compared with that of the days of his youth.

The village where I was born—I ask pardon of the present respectable inhabitants (it is now a town with a Health of Towns' Act, and a set of remarkably quarrelsome commissioners)—in its rise and progress to its present state of prosperous griminess, affords a complete history of travelling changes. We used to be five miles from the high road, over a way that was partly bridle road and partly a cart track by a moor, long since mortioned off, fenced, and turned into fields of turnips, oats, and barley. Our village consisted of a church and rectory-house, a water corn-mill, an inn (the Fisherman's Rest), a shop, a blacksmith's smithy; a pound, with walls of loose stones and sods, which we used to pull down when we wanted a donkey ride; half a dozen houses, and twice as many cottages, all scattered over the valley, alongside the brook, "Alder Brook." Our village was called Alder Vale. We have a stone bridge now, and the streets stretch over the two hills on each side.

It was a proud day for Alder Vale, when our first post-office was opened; and, by favour of the Rector's cousin, a powerful M.P., we were chosen from all the other villages on the stream, because we had the ancient corn-mill. My mother's once favourite maid, Barbara, widow Bugler, was chosen for post-mistress, because her husband, wild Jack Bugler, had been killed under Lord Exmouth, fighting as a jolly marine at Algiers; for, as the poor Widow Barbara remarked when the news came, "he never could keep himself out of mischief, and always was the very dooce for fighting and drinking, and—" There she stopped: she might have said more, but put her apron to her eyes and began to cry. So poor Barbara was left with a little Jack—a curly-headed laughing, mischievous imp—her savings all spent, to take in sewing, and do odd jobs, and make a living anyhow; and that was not very well until she was put into the post-office. Little Jack Bugler turned out the very "moral of his father," as Barbara observed ten times a day. At four years old he had no respect for the high-capped dame who kept the village school: at six played old gooseberry with the two cats of Miss Selina and Miss Clarinda Brown, the maiden aunts of the Rector. At nine he had successively passed through the hands of the village tailor and shoemaker, and been by both rejected as an unruly apprentice. The old folk were beginning to shake their heads very ominously, when his mother's establishment in the post-office opened a new career suitable to his genius, long practised on all the donkeys and ponies of the moor. With many threats, and cautions, and promises, and a general contribution of garments, he was made post-boy, and the happiest of boys at the same time. Bilberry, wickedest, wildest, and most surefooted of our moor ponies, was selected as his four-footed assistant in carrying the letter-bag to and from the Cross-road Inn, where the mail-coach daily left and took up our letters.

The second winter after Jack's installation in office, there came on just such a frost, and then successive hard snow storms, as we have had lately. All over the country the mails were stopped, and, in some places, buried for days, and ploughed out. Nevertheless, Jack, varying his route, making short new cuts with the help of Bilberry's craftiness, managed to do his work, if not keep his time; and we ceased to have any anxiety on his account, although it was often midnight before his clanging horn disturbed the silence of the village, and brought us to our frost-covered panes to see him trot through, "cold yet cheerful." But one night, just after Christmas, we slept through without hearing any echoes of Jack Bugler's horn; and, early after daybreak, were awakened by the lamentation of his mother. Neither Jack nor Bilberry had come home. There had been a terrible fall of snow, with a gale of wind in the night; so we were all more frightened than we liked to say. There was a general turn-out of the village: all the able-bodied men, with the Rector and the Doctor, the blacksmith and the miller at their head. Of course I went with my brother John and our terrier, Spot, to look on. We divided into three parties, and took three roads, and searched nearly all day, until something dark on the waste of snow, which turned out to be Jack's cap on a bush, set us to search, and in the leeward side of the hollow trunk of a huge branchless oak, almost buried in snow, we found Bilberry lying, with poor Jack close under him, and quite insensible. We wrapped him in blankets, the old shepherds rubbed him with snow, and he soon came round—the shaggy coat of the pony had saved him.

It seems he had dismounted to lead Bilberry through the deep snow; had lost his way in the storm, taken shelter in the Robber's Oak, and fallen asleep under Bilberry. He knew no more until he came to himself in bed at the Rectory, where he was first carried. He used to say, smacking his lips at the recollection, that he should like to be lost in the snow again, to have another week of nursing, nice clothes, and possets of ale and elder-wine. Jack Bugler, a few years afterwards, left the Royal post service to whip in a pack of fox-hounds, in Yorkshire, where he is now huntsman.

Times changed: a coalpit was opened, and a bunch of factories established, a few miles beyond Alder Vale; then came a new short cut of the high road, intersecting us; and we began to grow into importance.

My next adventure was in the first winter journey of the mail coach, on my return from a continental tour, fifteen years ago, when most anxious to reach home by Christmas-day. We were thirty hours in performing 190 miles of the way; and when ten miles from Alder Town, were waked up from a cramped slumber (having been up walking by the side of the mail most of the night, helping the horses and easing the load up hill), by a heavy lurch, and loud cries of the guard. Out we jumped, and found ourselves half in a ditch on the wrong side of the hedge. Whipping, pulling, pushing, made progress at the rate of about one mile an hour, when a crack, and another lurch to the near side, announced the axle-tree snapped. There was no help for it. The guard and my friend Jack Splinterbar, of Brazenhead College, set off with the leaders and the mail-bags on a steeplechase, leaving me with a pipe and a small bar of Cavendish, to keep company with the coachman for four hours, until a team arrived, and dragged us through.

This winter snow and ice affect us as little as floods. The Great Universal Junction has given Alder Town a loop line; a vast viaduct spans the scene where little Jack Bugler was lost in the Robber's Oak, and the hills down which Bilberry "skidded." We may be detained at times, but we cannot wander over the fences without knowing it. The moor has lost all its romance, and post-boys and post-horns will soon be as rare elements in fireside stories as Sleeping Beauties and giants and dwarfs. Without the slightest anxiety, I accepted an invitation to dinner at Alder Town on New Year's-day, and entered the express train, 200 miles off, on the morning of the 31st December, with perfect confidence that in about six hours I should be deposited within an omnibus distance of the main street. Looking back for five-and-twenty years I see many changes: moor lands to fertile fields; the site of woods and coverts to populous towns; bridle roads to highways; fishing creeks to prosperous ports; post-boys, with mail-bag and pony, superseded by mail-coaches; and mail-coaches by mail railway trains. But the seasons remain the same.

One duty we must not forget. We are able to take advantage of the modern luxuries of travelling, of which the express train, first-class, when well clad and warmed, is one of the greatest. We must not forget to help, when we can, those poor people who are compelled to endure, by day and night, the inclement seasons from which we are shielded.

S. S.



SKATING IN THE REGENT'S PARK.

ON THE ICE.

The snow has left its card for us this season without doubt. London has resembled a sheet of white paper in the past week, on which was written the footprints and activity of its myriad population. The metropolis has put on its winter robe, and taken it off with coquettish frequency. There have been fifty pretty little amateur snow-storms from ten to a hundred minutes in duration—intermittent in their calls, coming and going with unsatisfactory celerity. The ornamental waters of the Parks are ice-bound; and much obliged to the weather are the thousands of pleasure-seekers who extract amusement from ice, and manage to cut out as much pleasure on a pair of skates as less enterprising folks would languidly enjoy on a day of brilliant summer sunshine.

In the northern sections of Europe and America, where ice and snow are constant occurrences of the cold quarter of the year, water may

freeze as hard as it likes, and nature put on as gorgeous a mantle as the element can form, and little attention is created in consequence; but, in London, where snow is coy of its visits, and water slow to lose its state of liquescence—where the Thames prides itself on its flowing freedom, bidding defiance to the severity of the seasons—where the *trottoir* glories in its ever-present pave-stones—in London, then, snow and ice assume a different moral aspect, and become matters of greater importance than in colder climes. The season of snow in the United States has a specific character of its own—suggesting at once moonlight, festivity, buffalo-ropes, pretty girls, and music. The three weeks' sleighing of New York is a great event, involving as many happy associations as any other important period of the year. To part with this episode of merriment would be cutting away a slice from the winter that many would regret. It is the white oasis (a singular term as applied here) in the desert of the season's dreariness.

Our metropolis, not boasting of its season of sleighing, must fly to the ice in order to turn the effects of the cold weather to account. Accordingly, we find thousands trooping to the Parks, for the purpose of enjoying the artificial surface nature has prepared for their reception. Some content themselves with merely sliding; others dash about on skates. The timidly-cautious venture only to the edge, and endeavour to convince themselves that they enjoy the scene, and chill themselves very much during the mental operation. Just now the ice is in good order, and there is great amusement on it. Young gentlemen who affect skates, and execute all sorts of gliding impossibilities, are in high feather; and lads, and "children of a larger growth," who convert the polished surface into a slide, and go slipping along in a procession are in quite as good humour with the sport.

Let us take a walk to the Serpentine. It is about two o'clock, and the sheet of ice is covered with people. Hundreds are skating. We single



ROUGHING HORSES FOR FROSTY WEATHER.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

out that tall young man with the whiskers, who moves with graceful action, performing flourishes that astonish the spectators. Now he whirls rapidly about, one leg before the other, shaping a device on the ice with facility. Now he turns, altering the position of his feet by directing them in the tracery of lines, which he achieves by a succession of movements that seem like floating. The device grows into a grotesque series of circles, set in what resembles a curious frame of fanciful ice-work; and, this done, away glides the accomplished artist in ice, leaving an admiring group intent in admiration of his feat—or rather that which his feet have been the means of producing. There is a class of clumsy skaters who do nothing but tumble, and try the ice fearfully; these persons may excel on *terra firma*, but ice is beyond their power: their action might be elegant on a gravel walk; but the frozen carpet of the Serpentine lake demands more skill than they possess.

The clumsy portions of the visitors are not without their uses. They produce their share of the general fun, for what they lack in grace and management, they abundantly compensate for in cause of merriment. The comic tumbles and droll mishaps—the merry struggles and odd mistakes—all of which seem to take place in a good-humoured way, make up a sum of gay mischance that we would be sorry to part with. Ice is a great provocator of amiability, and many a man is good-natured where it has frozen, who is not particular in this respect away from the ice. Looking about the Serpentine we observe skaters, sliders, pedestrians of either sex and all ages, moving and shifting about like the changes of a kaleidoscope.

The Ornamental Water of the Regent's Park is, perhaps, after the Serpentine, the most popular resort of the skaters. The aristocratic edges of the Park contribute a vast number of amateurs and proficient, who, attired in heavy furs and shawls, disport about with an air of gay comfort. The ladies make their appearance here in great numbers, and brave the weather for an hour's amusement. How daintily they step over the crested snow, and with what piquant timidity they venture on the frozen waters. Should the ice playfully indulge in that treacherous cracking sound, which it sometimes does, without absolutely breaking, how they scream and scamper, half terrified, half elated, at the novel danger of their position.

There are two places where a *débutant* cannot hope to escape bewilderment—in the water when learning to swim, and on top of the water when learning to skate. We give the preference to the latter, on the ground that there is a certain amount of comfort in the knowledge of a full possession of the use of the legs, which, as everybody knows, are invaluable in cases of loss of equilibrium. But a pair of skates try the legs sadly, and upset the strongest-minded confidence that can be brought to bear in their behalf. There is a comic desolation in putting on skates for the first time, that belongs pre-eminently to the situation. If the novice be a young man of the "rapid" species, he is fascinated by the gliding groups on every side, moving with easy confidence. At first he wonders whether he can do the same, and, after a mental struggle or so, he at length summons courage and half-a-crown—the latter as a deposit to be left with the attendant for the use of the skates, and the former to be used after his feet are equipped. "How funny I feel," utters the *débutant* very cold, and very fearful that he will not be able to put in execution his desires. Out goes one foot, and the other flies about as if it were on a pivot. "Don't leave me for a moment," he says to the attendant, in a faltering voice, clutching him by the coat, "I think they are not strapped firmly;" and he saves himself from an ignominious tumble by clasping him tightly about the waist, and then sinking into a chair. The man, perceiving at once that his customer is a "raw un," affects to change the position of the straps, and once more the brave youth is erect. He is less nervous now, and seems reassured. He puts his best leg forward this time, and does it very well—bringing up the other in quite a dashing style.

"Go it, Mr. Clever!" "Now, then, Mister, catch me if you can!" shriek a pair of audacious youths who have been watching the whole affair.

This throws him off his guard. In glancing round to see who dare utter such impertinence, his right foot gets into trouble, the left wickedly follows the example, and he feels himself going—gets very red or pale, as the case may be; and in the effort to spare himself the mortification of a fall, he seizes by the arm a passing skater, who is gliding swiftly by; and the latter, unable to recover from the suddenness with which he has been checked, also reels, and they measure their mutual lengths side by side on the ice, to the boisterous approval of a crowd of delighted lookers-on.

The *débutant* crawls back to the chair after mildly apologising to his fellow-sufferer, and thinks he will not try skating any more, just at present. Perhaps he descends to the less ambitious operation of sliding; and, though he feels that skates may some other time have the honour of his acquaintance, he is content to take out his fun on the ice that day in a manner more adapted to his ideas of entertainment unblent with peril.

ROUGHING HORSES FOR FROST.

THE blacksmith is busy—busy with work he has not had to do for many a long day. One must look back through a series of Annual Registers to find the last short, sharp, and decisive frost, that turned plashes of the country lanes into sheets of ice in one night—to the immense satisfaction of the plough-lads, as they slithered along, and the discomfiture of Dobbin and Bald-face, and Long-tail, the colts. We almost thought that Jack Frost had forgotten us. Why, it's not two days since Job Bellows was as busy and more hurried than when our artist caught him with "Clydesdale's" fore-foot in his hand, on quite a different job. Old Jem Harkford killed his fox within half a mile of Job's smithy, after an hour and forty-five minutes, at a rattling pace, over and down some fine sticky fallows, through willow beds, and clay pit coverts where every stride was at least up to the hocks, and a good many up to the belly; and those who did not stick fast were glad to get away, leaving a collection of "lucky horseshoes"—some at the bottom of the mud-made air-pumps, others flung high up, in last violent efforts at extrication, into bushes, there to hang until the nutting season, and then be carried home as great prizes, to be nailed over cottage-doors or sold, by some unbelieving National School urchins, to the blacksmith.

Until a case of "kill," or "blown and beat," no fox-hunter ever finds out that he has cast a shoe. In this last instance five pinks, who had outridden and lost their second horses, a green-coated farmer, with a four-year-old, that he wanted to sell, and a steple-chaser who had gone rather further and faster than he intended with his "qualification thoroughbred," were clamorous round Job's smithy for first turn. It is not often that a blacksmith earns money so quick and easily as when, with four nails and a second-hand shoe, he satisfies an impatient sportsman. Men don't wait for change on such occasions, if there is to be another covert drawn for a second fox.

Not so in "roughing." Deliberation is the order of the day; and there is no crowding, now coaching is a bygone institution. One set of horse-owners don't believe the frost will last; others think that the roads are not so very slippery—that they can do without any such precaution—and would sooner run all risks, and walk instead of ride, rather than pay an extra sixpence beyond the annual shoeing contract to the blacksmith. Now this is very foolish. Abstractedly, the less a horse's feet are knocked about with hammers and pincers the better; practically, more harm may be done in going 500 yards in smooth shoes over slippery ground than in a dozen shiftings. As to gentlemen's horses, where, according to common custom, the groom is lazy and has his own way, there are ten nags spoiled by over-feed and staying in the stable, for one by over-work. In slippery weather, especially in driving or riding fast through icy lanes, where there is little traffic, and the ground is uneven, there is as much damage done by strains of the sinews of the legs and ricks of the back, as by absolute falls. A strain is worse to cure than a cut. So, if there is the least chance of the frost holding until horses must be used, the sooner they are roughed the better. For riding hacks and light harness work, where there are steep hills to be descended with a heavy carriage, horses can be roughed very effectually without shifting the shoes at all. Four sound large-headed nails will give hold enough to trot over a frozen pond. Wheelers and carters, like our handsome "Clydesdale" require a calk at heel and toe, according to the work they have to do. All three examples are given in the illustration. The country postman is taking a play with the dog, while his quiet, snaffle-bridle roadster, with the wallet, is waiting his turn, after the smart, well-bred nag, that, no doubt, does the distance between his master's house and the railway station at the rate of ten miles an hour daily. "Clydesdale" is wanted to fetch a load of draining tiles, that could not be put on the land until the rain ceased.

A heavy fall of snow is more of an impediment than the most slippery, ice-covered road. Deep soft snow is very exhausting to, and soon wears out, the best horse; and, when there is a hard frost, the snow "balls" in a horse's feet until he is mounted upon a pair of round clogs; and, at length tottling over, falls on his head. The rider has nothing for it but to gather himself up, clear out his steed's feet with a knife or whip-handle, and either continue the journey on foot, or re-mount and repeat the feat. We remember, some twenty years ago, when two stone

lighter than we ride at present, awakening one winter morning in Wales, to find a deep fall of snow, a sharp frost, and [twenty-five miles to ride. At that time we valued our bones little, and our hack's (an Irish thorough-bred) still less. After two or three falls on very soft ground, in which we amicably rolled over in the snow together, we found that the best way to avoid "bailing" was to push on at a hand-gallop. By this expedient, although every now and then there was "a coming down with a run," it was not nearly so frequent as at a slow pace. It is said that filling the hoofs with soft-soap will prevent snow "bailing;" but of the efficiency of this expedient we have no evidence.

MUSIC.

During the Christmas holidays there are, in general, few musical performances in London; it being the custom of our most popular vocal and instrumental performers to betake themselves to the provinces, to figure as "stars" at the many oratorios and concerts which are given at this season at most of our principal towns. For the last two or three weeks, consequently, the metropolitan musical intelligence has been little more than a blank.

THE REUNION DES ARTS terminated its season of 1853 on Wednesday, the 28th of December. This society—notwithstanding its affected French name—is judiciously managed, and flourishes accordingly. The cultivation of Music, though its most prominent, is by no means its sole object. Its purpose is to bring together and into a state of social intercourse, the votaries of all the fine arts, whether artists or amateurs, and to afford them pleasure and instruction by musical performances; by exhibiting paintings, sculpture, and other objects of art; by lectures on literary and artistic subjects, and by *conversations*. The society's spacious rooms in Harley-street are adorned with many masterly and valuable works of art; and there is a news-room for the use of the subscribers, which is liberally supplied with newspapers and periodicals of every kind, and gives the members all the advantages of a club-room. The long and increasing list of subscribers includes the many distinguished artists and lovers of the fine arts. The concert of the 28th of December may be taken as a specimen of these entertainments during the year. The accomplished young pianist, Miss Arabella Goddard, with M. Rica on the violin, and M. Paque on the violoncello, played Beethoven's Grand Trio in B flat—his *chef d'œuvre* in this class of composition. Miss Goddard also played, as a solo, Rossini's grand March recently composed for the Sultan, arranged by Benedict for the piano, in which form its effect is admirable. A new Trio, by M. Praeger, for the piano, violin, and violoncello, was played by the author and the two performers already named, and gained every suffrage as a masterly and beautiful work. The principal vocalist was Madame Amedee, who delighted the audience by her splendid performance of the fine aria, "In si barbara sciagura," from Rossini's "Semiramide," and in Mercadante's Duet, "E mi puoi credere," the tenor part of which was finely sung by Signor Cabatta. Other vocal pieces were sung by Miss Ternan and Miss M'ent; and M. Paque obtained great applause for his execution of a Violoncello Solo composed by himself. The rooms were crowded to the door with distinguished company.

THE SOCIETY OF BRITISH MUSICIANS had their Third Chamber Concert of the season on Monday evening last, at their usual place of meeting, Erat's harp saloon, in Berners-street. Several compositions, by members of the society, were performed with much applause. Among the instrumental pieces, special notice is due to a MS. quartet in G minor, for two violins, tenor, and violoncello, by Dr. Stegall; to a sonata in F, for piano and violin, by Mr. Henry Graves; and to a quartet, for piano and stringed instruments, by Mr. Charles E. Stephens. All these works, which were carefully and well executed, did much honour to their composers—Mr. Stephens's quartet, especially, which evinced a boldness and novelty of style rarely acquired by so young a composer. Among the vocal pieces, a part-song, for four voices, "Dream the dream that's sweetest," composed by Mr. Lake, bore away the palm. It is a piece of pure and beautiful vocal harmony, worthy of companionship with the finest works of our old English masters. A "Benedictus," for four voices, by Mr. Lovell Phillips, was worthy of this young musician's rising reputation. Altogether, these Chamber Concerts are exceedingly interesting and deserving of attention, as they bring before the public a great amount of talent on the part of the younger members of the musical profession.

MISS RANSFORD has given a series of soirées at her residence, in Welbeck-street, the last of which took place on Tuesday last. They have been very well-conducted, elegant, and successful entertainments; possessing, moreover, a peculiar feature rarely met with at the present day. They have consisted almost entirely of English music; and our ears have been refreshed by many of the finest glee, part-songs, duets, and ballads, of our own national school, now generally laid aside to make room for foreign compositions of the day, often very inferior, but preferred simply because they are foreign. On Tuesday evening, for instance, we had the pleasure of hearing Attwood's beautiful but now almost forgotten glee, "The Curfew." Sir Henry Bishop's splendid five-part glee, "Now by day's retiring lamp;" a charming ballad, "Still my spirit yearns for thee," by Mr. Lovell Phillips; Macfarren's "Nan of Batterssea," a ballad worthy of Dibdin; and Mr. Brinley Richards's beautiful serenade "Up, quit thy bower," from Joanna Bailie's drama "The Beacon." They were all admirably performed; the singers being Miss Ransford, Miss Messent, Madame Weiss, Messrs. Ransford, senior and junior, and Mr. Weiss.

Edinburgh possesses at present, and for the first time, a regular Opera, which is quite the rage in the fashionable circles of the Scottish metropolis. Its repertoire consists of the most popular Italian and German operas, performed in their respective languages. "Norma," the "Barbiere di Siviglia," "Lucrezia Borgia," "Fidelio," and the "Freischütz" have been given to crowded houses, and with immense success. The company would be considered strong even in London. It includes Mme. Caracori, Mme. Zimmermann, Reichardt, Formés, Bettini, and other performers of merit. The orchestra, under the direction of Herr Anschuetz, is very good; and every piece has been brought out in a complete and effective manner.

The appearance of a new and successful composer in Italy—where, for so many years, nothing has been heard but the weak and worn-out operas of Verdi—is an occurrence of much interest. A Correspondent at Milan writes to us as follows:—

The opening of the Carnival season at La Scala has been one of the most successful known for many years. The opera was a new one, "Il Convitto di Baldassarre" (Belshazzar's Feast), by Buzzi. The music is quite of the sterling vocal school, and pleases extremely. It suits well the rich voice and peculiar excellence of the first singer, C. Ara Novello, who is received with enthusiasm by the Milanese as a most accomplished musician. The veteran Rubini came to Milan on this occasion from his country house, expressly to hear the debut here of the vocalist whom he had advised, as a young artist, when he heard her in England, to prosecute the opera career. His delight was expressed in no stinted terms, and was further proved by his dropping a hint of returning shortly to Milan, to sing for and with her. There is a decided reaction just now in Italy, in favour of the pure vocal style, against the shouting school which lately prevailed; as an evidence of which, Rossini's operas of "Mose in Egitto," "Semiramide," and "Cenerentola," are talked of for speedy production. The new opera of Buzzi has been superbly put upon the stage. The grand scene and tableau of the "Feast" is an admirable copy of Martin's celebrated picture; while the scenes and dresses have been taken from the Nineveh sculptures in the British Museum.

MUSICAL PUBLICATIONS.

The sixteenth volume of the "Musical Bouquet" is calculated to be an interesting New-year's Present. The principal portion of its contents is a selection from the vocal compositions of Henry Russell, including the most favourite songs from the "Emigrant's Progress":—"Cheer, boys, cheer;" "Far, far upon the sea;" "Land, land, land!" and "Long parted have we been," all written by Dr. Charles Mackay; the "Slave Sale," the "African Village," written by Mr. Angus B. Reach; and the "Lament for Wellington," written by Eliza Cook. There are likewise several elegant quadrilles, polkas, and other pieces of dance-music; the whole forming a very handsome volume.

"A set of Songs," by Edward Francis Fitzwilliam, does honour to the genius of this young and rising composer. They are twelve in number; the words are selected from the works of the greatest English poets, and united to appropriate and characteristic music. Mr. Fitzwilliam's melodies are graceful and expressive, and the accompaniments are rich, ingenious, and masterly.

"One hundred and one progressive Exercises for the Violin," by

W. Waud of the Royal Italian Opera, will be found very useful to the student of that instrument, especially in the earlier stages of his progress. They are well calculated to lay a good foundation, by giving a sound method of fingering in all the different keys, and also in imparting freedom and variety in the use of the bow. The book has the further recommendation of cheapness.

Mr. Chesney's "New Instructions for the Concertina" will, likewise, be found a useful guide in learning this pleasant instrument, which, as its powers are developed, is daily coming into greater and greater repute. The instructions are plain and concise, and the exercises afford excellent practice to the young performer.

THE THEATRES.

DRURY-LANE.

On Saturday, a new piece in three acts, called "The Begging Letter," was produced. It is of the transpontine melo-dramatic school of horror and is so full of that element that the audience properly rebelled against the infliction. When we said that Mr. Smith considered all as fish that came to his net, we had no conception that he would have caught such a fish as this; we gave him credit for more judgment. But it is more than probable that he did not consult his own taste on the occasion—perhaps has none of his own in relation to the choice of dramas, and knows it; contenting himself, therefore, perforce, with that of others, and taking counsel of more experienced persons. Of these, ninety-nine out of a hundred are the worst possible advisers in such cases. "The Begging Letter" is a sanguinary tale of bigamy, in which Mad Bess (Mrs. Vickery), the wife of a poacher, impeaches the principal parties, and endeavours to destroy the offspring of the first union, in revenge for the death of her own husband, lost at sea. The last scene is a haunted glen, where the first wife dies, leaving the field clear for the second, and Mad Bess perishes from a fall over a precipice. An underplot exhibits Miss Featherstone with some effect as a gay young milliner, and somewhat relieves the sombre character of the principal action. The world has had quite enough of such dramas already.

MARYLEBONE.

"Broken Toys" and "Katherine and Petruccio" have been the dramas which have preceded the pantomime at this theatre since Boxing-night. In the latter, Mr. H. Vandenhoff and Miss Gordon have exerted themselves very effectively. Both, by the practice of legitimate business, are experiencing the usual benefits, and gaining in the artistic recognition of the true principles of histrionic suggestion. In our notice of the pantomime we should have mentioned that the very beautiful scenery by which it is illustrated, is from the pen of Mr. Shalders, the actor. It certainly does him infinite credit. The transformation scene is especially splendid, with its unfolding flowers, disclosing the groups of beauty and interest, and its falling rivers of phosphoric waters, and "the light of more than common day" shed over the scenic accessories of wood, distant prospect, and fantastically clouded horizon. The houses have been fully attended, though it will be observed that Mr. and Mrs. Wallack are not now acting. These truly great performers are, we understand, reserving themselves for the study of new parts in an original tragedy which they are about to produce on a magnificent scale, and in which it is understood there are tragic effects and situations of extraordinary power. The character to be assumed by Mrs. Wallack in particular, is described as one requiring the highest genius for its adequate embodiment; but this lady has a Siddonian force of style, capable of sternly sustaining the loftiest dramatic ideal.

BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.

The returns for the month and eleven months ending the 5th December were issued on Wednesday. The total declared value of the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures from the United Kingdom during the month and eleven months is shown below:—

	For the month.	For eleven months.
1853 ..	£7,628,760	£80,781,615
1852 ..	6,039,030	69,280,134
1851 ..	5,188,216	63,814,272

Compared with 1852, the increase on the month is £1,595,730, or at rate of 26½ per cent; and on the eleven months, £15,504,381, or equal to 23½ per cent. It will thus be seen that the increase in the month's figures is actually in excess of the large average increase of the eleven months. This sustained increase of one-fourth in our aggregate export trade is certainly a feature calculated to excite astonishment, even after making allowance for the higher prices now current. Should the profits from this large trade prove in proportion to its extent, the returns cannot fail to add greatly to the prosperity of the country. The increase extends to nearly every important item of our export trade, including cottons, woollens, linens, silks, metals (especially iron), machinery, haberdashery and millinery, hardware and cutlery, leather manufactures, beer and ale, &c. All these items exhibit a material increase, both on the month and eleven months; and, in this respect, the present issue of the Board of Trade tables is similar to its predecessors.

In the table of imports and consumption, the chief feature is a great increase in breadstuffs, owing to our deficient harvest. The total imports of wheat for the eleven months are stated at 4,607,914 quarters, against 2,820,100 in the corresponding eleven months of 1852, and 3,652,598 in the eleven months of 1851; and of flour, 4,397,315 cwts., against 3,651,081 in 1852, and 4,996,728 in 1851. In a few other leading articles of food, there is a decreased consumption; but on the whole it does not appear that the high price of provisions has yet had the effect of causing the bulk of the population to dispense with many of the comforts and luxuries in which their prosperous condition has lately enabled them to indulge. The consumption figures of wines, tea, sugar, and cocoa—all important articles—show a considerable increase over those of last year both on the month's and eleven months' comparison. In coffee there is a falling off on the month, but a considerable increase on the eleven months. One of the minor articles, the consumption of which has been unfavourably affected by the rise in price, is that of currants. The quantity of coffee entered for home consumption in the eleven months, is only 172,827 cwts. against 342,373 in the eleven months of 1852, and 418,210 in 1851.

THE LONDON COAL TRADE.—A correspondent of the *Newcastle Chronicle*—a paper exceedingly well-informed in all matters relating to the coal trade—puts the public in possession of the following curious piece of information, which he writes for the benefit of the coal-owners. He says:—"It is pretty well known that the London coal-merchant conducts his trade upon the principle of charging a certain fixed sum above the Pool price, to cover barge hire, loading, shooting, leading, &c. This sum varies from 5s. to 7s. a ton, giving a medium charge of 6s. Thus, when a household coal is sold for 24s. in the coal-market, the coal-merchant supplies his customers at 30s. and so on. The Great Northern Railway Company perform the same services—that is, they take the coals from the waggon to the consumer—for 2s. 6d. a ton; the difference being 3s. 6d. This may or may not be the fair difference; I merely quote it to illustrate what follows:—On the 9th and 12th of December a large fleet of nearly 600 sail of colliers arrived in London. This fleet had been collecting, by adverse winds, for upwards of three weeks; and when it arrived it was well known that London was literally on the starving point for coals. At the previous market 35s. had been given for house, and 25s. for gas coals. In fact, three or four of the gas companies had not twelve hours' stock among them; and the house trade was equally close run. Now the theory of the London coal-market is, that the coal-factor is the agent of the coal-owner, who pays him an excessive commission for a very easy and unimportant service. As an agent, if the theory were correct, he is bound to sell the property of his principal at the best possible price—in fact, to take advantage of every accidental circumstance which might enhance the value of the article entrusted to his care. Let us see how this was carried out in practice on the 9th and 12th ult. I have already said that 600 sail arrived at these two markets, and that prices were, just 24 hours before, 35s. a ton. But the coal-factors, without any communication with their principals, suddenly lowered the price to 26s. a ton for the best coals (and others lower in proportion); and they sold the whole fleet at these prices. It was quite notorious that there were no more loaded vessels on their passage. Possibly 50 vessels would be the utmost number that could arrive in London during the following week. At this time (12th Dec.) it was also obvious from the crowded state of the Pool, that no vessels then sold could be discharged for one or two weeks. Notwithstanding these facts, patent to all, the large fleet was sold at 26s. for best coals. As soon as this was disposed of the coal-factors ran up the prices of house coals to 34s. and 35s. for half a dozen straggling cargoes. The coal-merchants, advancing *pari passu* with the last price on the market, charged to the public the bulk of the coals bought at 26s. and under, as if they had been bought at 34s. and 35s., putting the difference between these prices and 26s. into their own pockets, in addition to the 6s. to which they consider themselves entitled. As a condition of things nearly analogous is imminent, it may not be without use to call the attention of the parties interested in it to the subject."

CONSUMPTION OF COAL IN LONDON.—The imports of coal into the port of London during the past year were 12,111 voyages, bringing 3,373,266 tons. The importation by sea, rail, and canal into the London district amounted during 1853 to upwards of 4,000,000 tons, and the trade has doubled itself in twenty years. The quantity of coal brought within twenty miles of London by rail and canal during 1853, amounts to 653,729 tons, an increase of nearly cent per cent as compared with the imports of 1852 notwithstanding the high price of coal.



TERCENTENARY FESTIVAL OF THE BATH GRAMMAR-SCHOOL.—THE PROCESSION IN BATH ABBEY CHURCH

TERCENTENARY FESTIVAL IN COMMEMORATION OF THE FOUNDATION OF KING EDWARD THE SIXTH'S SCHOOLS.

A VERY interesting Festival was held in Bath on the 28th of last month, in honour of King Edward VI., whose death took place in the year 1553, and whose benefactions to the cause of education were the immediate objects of the commemoration. Not less than thirty free grammar schools were founded by this King in different parts of England during the last three years of his short life. One of these Schools was founded at Bath, and endowed with a considerable part of the property belonging to the Abbey, and surrendered to Henry VIII. in 1539.

The exact extent and nature of this property, from the misconduct of former corporations, has become so involved in obscurity, that the resources of the School are at present only partially known; but it is pretty certain that a considerable part of the beautiful town which within the last century has been added to the old city, stands upon ground left by King Edward for the maintenance of this foundation. A late decree in Chancery has restored some of the property; which, however, is so hampered with long leases granted for nominal considerations, or considerations by which the School has never benefited, that the full value of that decree will not be realised for several years. Meanwhile, however, something has been gained—a new master has been appointed, and there seems to be, as we are informed, a determination to do all that can be done to raise the importance of the School, and extend its usefulness. The Festival of the 28th ult. had reference to this foundation, but more to the general cause; and was celebrated by the masters of the principal schools of Edward VI.—six of whom attended from various parts of the country. The proceedings of the day began with a procession from the School-house to the Abbey, which was joined by the Mayor and Corporation at the Guildhall, and which entered the Abbey at the west door, in the following order:—

The Mayor of Bath, the Members of the Corporation, the Stewards of the Festival, the Trustees of the School, the Head-Master of Bath, the Head-Master of Shrewsbury, the Head-Master of Bury St. Edmunds, the Head-Master of Bromsgrove, the Head-Master of Christ's Hospital, the Head-Master of Birmingham, the Clergy in their robes, the Second and Assistant Masters of Bath School, the Pupils.

Our Engraving represents the procession passing up the nave. The morning prayers were read by the Rev. Arthur Maclean, Head-Master of Bath School; and an excellent sermon was preached from Matthew xxiii. 23, by Dr. Kennedy, Head-Master of Shrewsbury School. After the service there was a meeting in the Guildhall, at which the Mayor presided; and Mr. Maclean made a speech, in which he detailed the objects of the Festival, and gave an account of King Edward's character, the state of education when he came to the throne, the schools he endowed, and the objects for which they were founded. Mr. Maclean then gave a short account of some few of the distinctions gained at the Universities by Edward's Schools, and the names of some distinguished persons educated at those schools, and at Bath in particular—among whom were "the ever memorable" John Hales and William Prynne, in former days; Sir Sydney Smith, Sir Edward Parry, and the distinguished "opium eater," Thomas de Quincey, in modern times; and, having given a narrative of the misdoings of its former guardians, the reverend gentleman commended these schools to the company, for the sake of their founder, for the principles out of which they were born; and which they were eminently calculated, from the sobriety of their character and the solidity of their constitution, to uphold, in the present day of distraction and trouble. The meeting, which was addressed by the two city members, did not separate till it had passed resolutions expressing its reverence for the memory of King Edward, its sympathy with the grammar-schools founded by him, and with the principles of a grammatical education, as well as its sense of the duty which lay upon the inhabitants of Bath to support the school the King had endowed for them.

In the evening there was a dinner at the York House, which was attended by between seventy and eighty gentlemen; Mr. Norman, an old pupil of the Bath School, presiding. Many speeches were made, bearing upon the objects of the Festival; and among the speakers were the head-masters mentioned above: several others having been prevented from attending.

TOWN AND TABLE TALK ON LITERATURE, ART, &c.

LORD LANSLOWNE, it appears, is answerable, in the first instance, for the purchase of the Holbein for the National Gallery, about which there has been within the last three years so great a disturbance in artistic circles. This fact is plainly stated by Sir Charles Eastlake, in his manly evidence before the Commons Committee. We confess we are somewhat surprised that his Lordship should be mistaken in the works of so well-known a master. It is true that Holbein has only attracted due and correct attention of very late years; and that his Lordship, from whom we remember of his two collections at Bowood and Lansdowne House, has not been curious about this famous master; nor do we remember that either of the trustees has exhibited any appreciation of his works while Sir Charles Eastlake himself restricts his own knowledge of art to the Italian school. Sir Charles, in deed, assures us that he undertook the office of Keeper on the full understanding that his opinion was only to be asked in matters connected with Italian art; and that, in the alleged Holbein acquisition, he at least is not to blame.

Our able writers on Art are acquiring reputations for eccentricities. No one now-a-days, it is said, can achieve greatness without being an original. Mr. Ruskin is an original—he is

Above all Greek, above all Roman fame;

he condemns Bramante and Wren; thinks all good architecture contained in Venice; and that he has the skill to give Tintoretto a name in art above that of Titian. We know into what eccentricities he ran (and in print, too) in admiration of Turner; but his converts have been very few, and those few not long faithful to his preaching. He has done nothing for Mr. Coningham, who objects, in his evidence, clamorously and frequently, to the displacing of the Claudes, in order to make room for "extremely inferior works by Turner;" nay, he would go further, and would discountenance the purchase of the nation of even a fine work by Mr. Turner. "If you were to ask me (he says emphatically) whether I should recommend the purchase of the Turner pictures for the National Gallery, I should say, decidedly not." How we should like to get Mr. Ruskin and Mr. Coningham into a hot encounter about Turner; and, when they were well by the ears, to escape from the room to other subjects less noisy and of more importance.

Scotland has been extremely barren of sculptors: indeed, we cannot call to mind any sculptor of great eminence born north of the Tweed, who can be named in the same breath with Flaxman or Chantrey, with Banks or Bacon. We have had, however, in London, during the present week a Scottish sculptor of name, who works with care and skill in the school of Chantrey. We allude to Mr. Steel, the sculptor of the Edinburgh equestrian Wellington. Mr. Steel has been in London to superintend the erection in the Painted-hall at Greenwich, of his marble standing statue of Admiral Saumarez. The statue is erected; and Mr. Steel has returned to the north to complete his sitting figure of Lord Jeffrey for the Parliament-house. We shall, no doubt, have something critical to say next week about the Greenwich statue.

Sir Robert Peel has a right to be heard on any question connected with literature and art: his opinions, if they do not demand consent, always deserve attention. Sir Robert, it appears, differed from Prince Albert and others, in the enlarged notion of a National Gallery, embracing specimens of every school and scholar of note: he saw that, with our present narrowness of spirit, it was impossible to construct a National Gallery on so wide a basis; and, therefore, in a letter to Sir Charles Eastlake, he expresses his views on the subject in his own clear and unmistakable manner. "It seems to me," he says, "that we should give a preference to works of sterling merit, that may serve as examples to the artists

of this country, rather than purchase curiosities in painting, valuable as illustrating the progress of art, or the distinctions in the styles of different masters, but surely less valuable than works approaching to perfection." This is a text engaging conversation in artistic circles.

Messrs. Christie and Manson have commenced the new year with a goodly list of auctions, at their rooms, long previous to the approach of spring. There is not much promise, it is true, of pictures possessing a name and a genealogy—those essential requisites for securing critical bidders and large prices; still, the list looks well, and some of the sales will obtain attention. And here, the mention of this leading firm in Europe for the disposal of works of art, enables us to make public a little bit of useful information communicated by Mr. Christie to the Commons Committee; but buried in the enormous Blue-book to which we have called attention so frequently. Mr. Christie says (and his experience is indeed great) that "people prefer pictures that have not been cleaned just before they come to be sold;" that "people prefer having them as they are;" and that there is "something" in the common impression, that a well-known amateur of good pictures, possessing a long purse and bidding for himself, is likely to be run up "It is a very common impression," he says, "but I do not think there is much in it; I think there may be something in it."

We observe a statement in the *Morning Post* to the effect that the Bishop of London has consented to a plan laid before him by the Rev. C. Hume, the Incumbent of St. Michael's, Wood-street, for the removal of some thirty of the City churches into suburban and rural districts. The churches to be removed are named in a classified list, and the selection appears to have been made with great good judgment. There is, however, one serious blunder; for surely it would be a blunder, and something worse, to destroy the interesting church of St. Helen's, Bishopsgate—one of the few London churches that escaped the Great Fire, and possessing an interest to many from the tomb it contains of Sir Thomas Gresham, the founder of the Royal Exchange; to say nothing of the noble sixteenth century monument to Sir John Crosby and the interesting tomb of Sir Julius Caesar. Mr. Hume has placed his own church in the moveable list: Weybridge or Wimbledon are pleasanter places than Wood-street, Cheapside. In this great change are the churches to be built as before, stone for stone? And are they, above all, to retain their names? St. Swithin's, London-stone, is to go (what are the antiquaries about?); St. James's Garlick-hill, is to be moved—no one knows whither; and St. Margaret Pattens is to be carried, not on pattens, but in Mr. Cubitt's waggons, to some wild heath as yet wholly unprovided with a church.

Our two classic architects—Mr. Hardwick and Mr. Tite—have met in the fine old Norman church of St. Cross, near Winchester; and the rude masonry which the Conqueror engrafted on a ruder Saxon of the Confessor, is not to be covered, we are glad to think, with buckets of white-wash, eked out here and there with pailfuls of yellow. The church, we feel assured, is perfectly safe if entrusted to Mr. Tite.

A Correspondent, who gives his name, and on whose information we can rely, directs our attention to an error in our last week's column. We stated, it will be remembered, that the average auction price of the remainder of Roberts's "Holy Land, Egypt, and Nubia," varied from ten to eleven guineas. It appears, however, that we were misinformed—the average auction price maintained throughout, "was not less than thirteen pounds." On the second evening, as our Correspondent admits, a few copies "sunk as low as eleven pounds."

We have been gossiping entirely on art; but on this tack conversation during the past week has almost wholly run—not unvaried, however by cheap books, works in hand, and the prospects of the approaching season.



OPENING OF THE SOUTH-WALES RAILWAY.—THE NARBERTH-ROAD STATION, HAVERFORDWEST.

HAVERFORDWEST RAILWAY—IMPOSING DEMONSTRATION.

THE extension of the South Wales Railway, which has hitherto terminated at Carmarthen, into the ancient county of Pembroke, thus forming another link in that great chain of railway communication which has already done so much for the Principality, was inaugurated on Wednesday week, in a manner worthy the occasion. For this purpose, Mr. W. Walters, Mayor of Haverfordwest, provided a magnificent banquet; to which were invited the directors of the South Wales, Great Western, and Vale of Neath Railways; the Eastern Steam Company, the Australian Direct, via Panama, Steam Screw Navigation Company; the Corporations of Haverfordwest, Swansea, Carmarthen, Cardigan, Pembroke, and Tenby; the Mayors of Cardiff, Neath, Newport, and Waterford; and the Lords-Lieutenant and members for the town and the adjoining counties. Following the example of the Mayor, the leading inhabitants resolved to make the celebration as general as possible. They not only decorated their houses and establishments in the gayest manner, but subscribed liberally for a plentiful dinner to 2000 persons of the poorer classes in the town and district.

A special excursion-train started from Swansea at 8.45, with the Mayor and a number of officials. At Landore and Carmarthen other parties joined, so that the train became a monster one before it reached Haverfordwest. On its arrival there the procession formed in regular order, and proceeded to the Shire Hall; on entering which, the Town Clerk read a congratulatory address to the Chairman and Directors of the South Wales Railway from the Mayor and Corporation of the town. An address from the Odd Fellows was next presented, soon after which the company separated.

At the Banquet—which was on a most extensive scale, ranking amongst the most elegant entertainments ever witnessed in Wales—there were about 800 ladies and gentlemen. The sides and ceiling of the station, in which it was given, were festooned with yellow, crimson, and white drapery, in a tasteful manner. The chair was filled by the Mayor, who was supported by C. R. M. Talbot, Esq., M.P.; Viscount Emllyn, M.P.; J. H. Phillips, Esq., M.P.; David Jones, Esq., M.P.; Hon. W. H. Yelverton; Dr. Llewellyn; Dean of St. David's, and other gentlemen. After the usual toasts had been given, and loyally responded to, the Mayor proposed "The healths of the Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese, including Dissenting Ministers." In reply to which, the Dean of St. David's said that no person rejoiced more in the event they had met

to celebrate than the Bishop whose health had been proposed. "Instead of trundling slowly along on his way from Abergwilly to that part of his diocese, he could now take his breakfast at his palace at Abergwilly, and be amongst his friends at Haverfordwest in a short time." Lord Emllyn, in proposing "Prosperity to Milford Haven, and a speedy re-establishment of direct communication with Ireland," said he did not believe that half of them knew the vast amount of trade and commerce which would be brought to that port should this communication be re-established. The subject was again referred to by W. S. Parker, Esq., of the Waterford and Kilkenny Railway Company, who said he had great pleasure in being able to state that arrangements were already on the tapis to establish a line of packets between Milford and Kilkenny, which would not only do credit to the projectors, but would also prove a formidable rival to the Holy-head route.

A Ball was given in the evening, which was attended by the principal inhabitants of the town and district. The arrangements were excellent; indeed, altogether, it was pronounced one of the most agreeable *réunions* that ever took place in the county. A brilliant display of fireworks was given by the directors of the South Wales Railway, to the great delight of a numerous crowd.



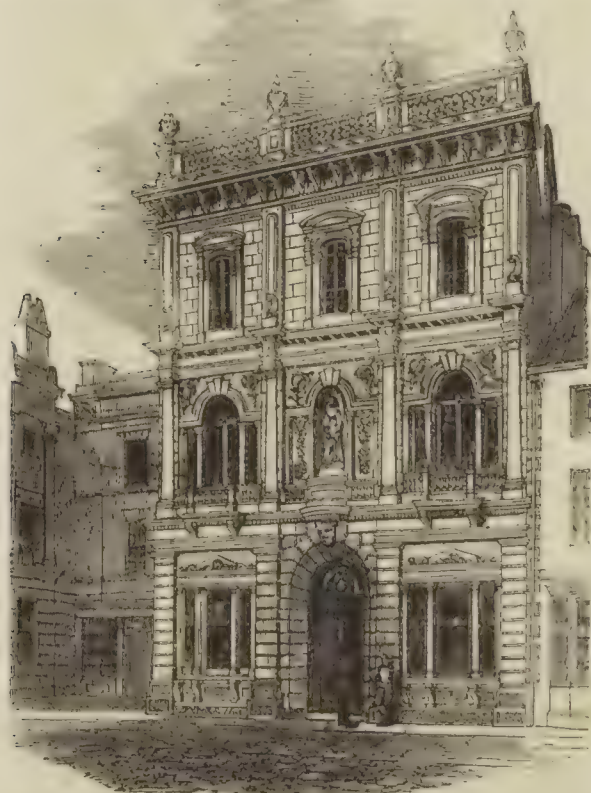
HAVERFORDWEST.



THE SEINE FROZEN, AT PARIS.

LOUTH CORN-EXCHANGE.

It is only a few months since the project was conceived of erecting an Exchange in the important agricultural town of Louth, in Lincolnshire; and, it is mainly by the exertions of a few spirited individuals, that this object has been speedily accomplished. The capital for the purpose was raised in shares of £10 each, the greater portion being held by the Directors—of whom Charles North, Esq., an eminent agriculturist, residing at South Thoresby, near Louth, is the Chairman; and Robert Norfolk, Esq., of Louth, one of the most influential merchants in the county, is Vice-Chairman. The foundation-stone of the edifice was laid by the respected Mayor of the borough of Louth (Mr. Samuel Trought), on the first day of July last, in the presence of the chairman, vice-chairman, the directors, the town-clerk of the borough, and secretary of the company (Mr. C. Ingoldby), and a numerous and influential



NEW CORN EXCHANGE, LOUTH.

body of the inhabitants of the town and district, who celebrated the event by suitable rejoicings. Wednesday, the 4th instant, being the market-day at Louth, and the New Year's market, was selected as an appropriate time for opening the building for the transaction of business.

The Façade, of which we give a view, is executed in Caen stone, of the modern Italian style of architecture, consisting of three stories, divided into three bays: the lower story by rusticated pilasters, the middle story by three-quarter Doric columns; the centre compartment of this story over the arched entrance is a niche containing a figure of Ceres. The upper story is divided by deeply-paneled pilasters, surmounted by an enriched bold cantaliver cornice, over which is a balustrade, with emblematical vases thereon. The basement story consists of extensive wine and porter vaults, and other requisite offices, occupied by Messrs. Lucas and Co. On each side of the principal entrance are offices for merchants from which, rising by a broad flight of stone steps, the level of the Exchange-room is attained; which is entered from a spacious landing. The room is 75 by 35 feet, and proportionately high. The whole area of the Exchange is covered with Hartley's patent rough plate-glass, arranged in the ridge-and-furrow form; supported by enriched beams, upon beautiful large carved corbels, modeled by Mr. T. W. Wallis, of Louth.

Over the front offices is a large dining-room, thirty-five feet by twenty-four feet, with bed-rooms in the attic story for the accommodation of the adjoining inn.

The most essential points (light, ventilation, &c.) appear to have been

well considered—the former is extraordinarily good. The design throughout is chaste and original, and reflects credit on the designer, Mr. Pearson Bellamy, of the firm of Bellamy and Hardy, architects, Lincoln and Louth.

The amount of the contract for the building is £2510, including £400 for the old Town-hall building, which originally stood on this site. The works have been executed by the contractor, Mr. John Levitt, of Louth, in a very efficient manner.

THE FROST AT PARIS.

THE French capital has been visited with frost equalling in severity that experienced in our own metropolis. On Saturday morning last the thermometer of M. Chevallier marked, at six o'clock 4 deg. 6-10ths centigrade below zero (22½ deg. Fah.); at mid-day 5-10ths deg. (31 deg. Fah.). During the night of Saturday there was a heavy fall of snow, and the thermometer rose. At seven o'clock on Sunday morning, it stood at 1 deg. centigrade above zero (33 deg. 8-10ths Fah.), and at mid-day 2 deg. 3-10ths centigrade above zero (36 deg. 1-10th Fah.).

On Saturday the Seine was frozen, and several persons passed over the ice. Of this extraordinary scene our Artist has enabled us to present the accompanying picture.

Notwithstanding the severe weather which prevailed in Paris during the whole of last week, the streets were never more crowded with pedestrians visiting the shops and booths where New-year's presents were laid out to tempt purchasers. Nothing is more curious to a stranger than to see the magnificent Boulevard des Italiens transformed into a fair, and lined with wooden huts, in which fancy articles are displayed. A great number of poor persons, who are permitted to occupy these huts, gratuitously, brave the snow during the day, and they occupy the huts during the night, notwithstanding the intensity of the frost.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL AT THE ST. JAMES'S DISTRICT SCHOOLS, HAMPSTEAD-ROAD.

AMONG the most interesting celebrations of Christmas are the festivals given to the poor children of certain of our metropolitan schools. We have illustrated one of these pleasing little treats, which was given to the children of the St. James's District Schools for girls and infants, at their School-room, in Henry-street, Hampstead-road, on the 24th ult. These schools were opened on the 17th of last January, under the management of a committee of gentlemen, presided over by the Rev. Dr. Stebbing, the indefatigable minister of the district. On the first day, 110 children were entered, and this number has since increased to 320. An Infant School-room has been added, and a second mistress engaged for the infants, who have thus been separated from the elder children. Each child pays one penny per week; and the additional expenses of the schools are defrayed by voluntary subscriptions, which, like all the other charities of that poor district, mainly come from without. The schools owe much of their efficiency to the exertions of the lady visitors, to whose kindness and liberality, aided by the good taste of Mrs. Stebbing, the children are indebted for the above festival. The children met in the Infant School-room at four o'clock, and partook of bread-and-butter, cake, and milk. They then proceeded to the upper room, represented in the illustration; the Christmas-tree at the end of the room was lighted by twenty-two jets of gas, and hung with toys, and little silk bags, containing sugar-plums. After an address from Dr. Stebbing, and some singing by the children, a bag of sweetmeats and a toy were given to each child.

An equally pleasing sight was witnessed in the same room on the following evening, when twenty-six poor old women were assembled to tea; and afterwards, through the seasonable liberality of a lady of the congregation, the women were presented with flannel petticoats and packets of tea and sugar.



CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT TO THE CHILDREN OF THE ST. JAMES'S DISTRICT SCHOOLS, HAMPSTEAD-ROAD.

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

EMIGRATION FROM LIVERPOOL IN 1853.—The emigration from Liverpool during the last quarter of the year was, as might be expected, much less than that of any of the previous quarters. During the first three months of 1853, 106 emigrant vessels left Liverpool with 40,451 passengers; in the second quarter, 147 ships, with 70,885 passengers; in the third, 173 ships, with 58,797 passengers; and in the three months ending last Saturday, 90 ships, with 33,587 passengers. If we add to these 21,067 passengers to Australia, who are not included in the foregoing list, the total number of emigrants from Liverpool, under Government inspection, during the whole of last year, is 224,787. Out of 20,318 steerage passengers for Australia last year, 10,634 were English, 386 Scotch, 4061 Irish, and 1870 natives of other countries.

MANCHESTER FREE LIBRARY.—The British and Foreign Bible Society has, through the Bishop of Manchester, presented to the Manchester Free Library twenty-one volumes of its publications, comprising the whole or portions of the scriptures in twenty different languages, as follows:—English, Danish, Feejeean, French, German, Greek (modern), Italian, New Zealand, Polish, Portuguese, Russ, Samoan, Spanish, Swedish, Tahitian, Tongan, Armenian, Hungarian, Chinese, and Turkish.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE ELECTION.—Lord Ingestre, accompanied by Lord Stanley, M.P., arrived at Liverpool on Tuesday morning, on board the *Niagara*, from America, and reached Stalford about five o'clock in the afternoon. The two noble Lords have been absent from England about five months, having been travelling together in the United States and South America. Lord Ingestre was to pay a visit to Wolverhampton on Wednesday. His friends have been engaged during the past week in an active canvass on his behalf.

TRADE OF THE PORT OF BRISTOL.—The following are the foreign imports into Bristol for the last four years, as taken from the Bristol presentments: 1850, 742 vessels, 142,603 tons register; 1851, 659 vessels, 137,835 tons; 1852, 627 vessels, 134,779 tons; 1853, 775 vessels, 171,311 tons. Of the imports of 1853, 159 were timber ships, measuring 66,932 tons. Many large ships are kept out by the easterly winds; otherwise the number and tonnage for 1853 would have been considerably greater.

MONEY ORDERS.—GENERAL POST-OFFICE, DECEMBER, 1853. —On the 1st inst. the undermentioned minor money-order offices were raised to major money-order offices. Postmasters must, therefore, in future, pay orders issued at those offices on receipt of the corresponding advice direct therefrom:—Abergele, Denbigh; Bingley, York; Crook, Durham; Hawkhurst, Kent; Heywood, Lancaster; Newcastle Emlyn, Carmarthen; Northleat, Kent; Patrington, York; Ramsey (Isle of Man); Rawtenstall, Lancaster; Sandgate, Kent; Southend, Essex; Sowerby-bridge, York; Walton-on-Thames, Surrey; York Town, Surrey. Minor money-order offices have also been opened at the undermentioned places:—Buckden, Huntingdon; Holme-upon-Spalding-Moor, York; New-mills, Derby (head office, Stockport); and Schull, Cork (head office, Skibbereen).

WHO WILL CUT THE TIGER'S NAILS?—Mr. Vallance appeared at the Police-court, Hull, on Friday, and called the attention of the sitting magistrates to the miserable condition of the tiger at the Hull Zoological Gardens. He stated that it had for some time suffered much in consequence of its nails growing and cutting its flesh, the poor animal being almost unable to put its feet to the ground. He understood it was considered dangerous to do anything to the nails, but he, nevertheless, thought it a proper case for investigation by the magistrates, and he wished to know whom he could summon? Mr. M'Manus suggested that chloroform should be administered to the animal, under the influence of which he thought its nails could be cut without danger. The magistrates said they had no power to interfere in the matter.—*Hull paper.*

SOME gigantic shears, erected on the eastern side of the Southampton Docks, for the purpose of lifting the steam machinery, such as boilers and engines, in and out of the mail packets, fell with a terrific crash, on Tuesday, the noise being heard half a mile off. No less than 140 feet of masonry fell at the same time. It is supposed that the water behind the dock wall had frozen, and, acting like a wedge, forced out the wall, and the shears, losing their support, fell in consequence. To repair the dock and erect other shears, so as to restore what has been destroyed, just as it was before the accident, would cost about £15,000.

FOG IN THE MERSEY.—On Thursday week this town, and particularly the river, was visited by another of those dense fogs which have lately been so prevalent in this locality. At half-past eight o'clock the fog became suddenly very thick; the fog-bells of the various vessels on the river were kept in constant motion to prevent accidents; but, notwithstanding every caution, several collisions took place. Shortly before nine, the steamer *Warrall* left the landing stage for Woodside, and when she got into the middle of the stream, notwithstanding the greatest precaution on the part of the crew, she came in contact with the steam-tug *British Queen*, lying at anchor, and sustained considerable damage. The *Queen* steam-tug and a flat about the same time came into collision with the ship *Renfrewshire*, from Quebec, which was being towed up the river. The steamer was proceeding from the Cheshire side towards Liverpool, and, not observing the ship, she ran athwart the bows of the latter, the jibboom of which caught the steamer's funnel, and carried it overboard. Besides losing her funnel, the bulwarks and plating of the steamer were damaged to a considerable extent. Fortunately, the crew escaped unhurt. About a quarter to ten o'clock, the steamer *Prince*, having on board nearly 700 persons, left the Woodside slip, and proceeded very slowly towards Liverpool. The density of the fog at this time had apparently increased; and, upon getting into the middle of the river, the persons on board of the *Prince* heard the ringing of a bell at a very short distance; but supposing the sound to proceed from a ship at anchor, the steamer was not stopped. In an instant afterwards the Birkenhead steamer *Cato*, belonging to Messrs. Wiloughby, was discerned in the mist, and the engines of both vessels were promptly reversed; not, however, in time to prevent a collision. The *Cato* was struck near one of her paddle-boxes, and had a portion of her bulwarks damaged. Some alarm was felt by the passengers on board the *Prince*; but, on the extent of the injury being ascertained, it quickly subsided. The steamer *Wallace* ran into the American ship *Henry Grinnell*, which was lying at anchor, and damaged one of her paddle-boxes. The fog on the Liverpool side of the river cleared off shortly after eleven o'clock; but it remained very dense on the Cheshire side for upwards of an hour after that time.—*Liverpool Mercury.*

THE CHOLERA IN SCOTLAND.—No farther cases of cholera have been reported in Edinburgh since our last; although two are stated to have occurred in Leith. In Glasgow, we are glad to say, it seems on the decrease. There were, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 74 cases, and 32 deaths; and, in addition, 61 cases of diarrhoea are reported. Dundee is now almost entirely rid of the disease; but it has carried off 313 victims. In Kilwinning and Dalry the malady has also made its appearance—in the former locality with great malignity, carrying off its victims after a few hours' indisposition. In Coatbridge there have been some eight or ten cases of the disease.—*Scotsman.*

DEATH FROM BURNING CHARCOAL IN A BEDROOM.—At Chudleigh, Devonshire, a labourer, named Richard Bickford, employed by Mr. Oldham, was requested, in the absence of that gentleman's family, to sleep in a room over the coach-house, in order to be near at hand in case any assistance should be required. A fire basket, used for burning charcoal, was on the premises, and before going to bed the gardener cautioned the deceased as to the danger of burning charcoal in the room in which he slept. Notwithstanding this warning, however, he appears to have taken the basket into his room, and filled it with charcoal. On the following morning, as he did not rise at his usual hour, the servants went to his room, and receiving no reply to their repeated knocks, they burst open the door. Bickford was then discovered in bed quite dead. Two medical gentlemen were immediately called in, but it was of no avail, life having been extinct for several hours.

THE RAILWAY ACCIDENT AT NEWTON-HEATH.—The inquest touching the death of Miss Jane Sykes was held on Saturday last, when the following verdict was returned:—"That the death of Jane Sykes was caused by a collision of the express train to Oldham with the Yorkshire train, and that the death was accidental. And the jury take this opportunity of expressing their regret at the apparent carelessness of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company, in allowing the express train to start at so short a time after the above-named train; and would suggest that, in future, more care be exercised, especially in foggy weather." Mrs. Lord, grandmother of the young lady who was killed, is in a fair way towards recovery.

HOW DID IT COME THERE?—A few days since, a gentleman at Birkenhead was presented with a cow's tongue, which appeared to be perfect in every respect. After being boiled, he discovered a piece of sandstone embedded in the tongue, about three quarters of an inch in length, half an inch in width, and a quarter of an inch in thickness.—*Liverpool Standard.*

RELIGIOUS WORSHIP IN ENGLAND AND WALES.—The important census tables of religious worship in England and Wales have just been issued, by which it appears that there are 35 different religious communities and sects, of which 27 are native and indigenous, and 8 foreign; in which latter are included various isolated congregations of religious worshippers, which are not organised to be called a "sect." The population of England and Wales, by the last census, was 17,927,609; and on Sunday, the 30th March, 1851, there were present at the most numerous attended services 2,971,253 members of the Church of England, 3,110,782 Protestant Dissenters, 249,589 Roman Catholics, and 24,793 other bodies. Of all denominations the number returned as present on the occasion was 6,356,222.



PLATE PRESENTED TO MR. KEAST, LATE CHURCHWARDEN OF ST. LUKE'S.

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. KEAST.

This handsome service of Plate was, on the 14th ult., presented to Mr. John Keast, late Churchwarden and Chairman of the Board of Guardians for the parish of St. Luke. The principal piece bears the following inscription:—

This Salver, with a Cup, Snuff-box, Tea and Coffee Service, was presented to Mr. John Keast, of the Star Tavern, City-road, by his fellow parishioners and other friends, in testimony of their esteem, and in acknowledgment of the efficient services rendered by him to the parish of St. Luke, Middlesex, while filling the office of Churchwarden and Chairman of the Board of Guardians, 14th December, 1853. John Brown, William Christie, George Sinclair, and George Whittle, Honorary Secretaries; Charles Allberry, Acting Secretary; Richard Hooper, Churchwarden, Chairman; James Howes, Vice-Chairman; James Tilfer, Treasurer.

The Service, weighing 223 ounces, and costing £150, was made by Mr. Wright, of Coppice-row, and is a highly creditable piece of workmanship. The presentation of the Testimonial took place, at a dinner given to Mr. Keast, on the 17th ult., as recorded in the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS for Dec. 17.

NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE

THE ARMY IN INDIA.

The Commander-in-Chief in India, Sir William Gomm, has notified in general orders the following:—

"Head-quarters, Simla, Oct. 26th, 1853.

"With deep sorrow—a sorrow sacred to the memory of rare private worth and recorded public merit—the Commander-in-Chief in India makes known to the army the death, at Simla, after brief but severe illness, of Major-General Godwin, C.B., commanding the Sirhind division, and recently holding chief command of the combined force which achieved the conquest of Pegu. Sir William Gomm feels assured that the army at large will regret with him the sudden departure from amid its ranks of a distinguished soldier, a gallant leader, and an ardent promoter of its interests; while some, perhaps, will mourn with his Excellency over the loss of a long-trying and justly-valued friend, faithful and true from youth upward to the close of an useful and honoured life."

The Commander-in-Chief has also passed some high encomiums in a general order, dated Oct. 24th, 1853, on the three distinguished regiments (the 18th, 51st, and 80th) now on their march for Calcutta, where they are to embark for England:—

"Her Majesty's 18th (Royal Irish) and 80th Regiments of Foot are on the point of returning home, after each completing a term of nearly seventeen years' foreign service. Her Majesty's 18th contributed essentially to the success of our arms in China. Her Majesty's 80th assisted actively throughout the first Sikh war, and conspicuously at the battles of Moodkee, Ferozeshah, and Sohraon. Neither can his Excellency forego the opportunity thus afforded him of expressing his sense of the recent services of her Majesty's 51st Light Infantry, also about to proceed home—services repeatedly brought to his notice by the Major-General commanding the field force in Burmah, and of offering to this regiment the same earnest good wishes as to its brethren in arms of the 18th and 80th."

A NORTH SEA SQUADRON.

Energetic efforts are being put forth by our dockyards to create and fit out a powerful North Sea squadron, to be ready for service as soon as the ice breaks up. The push will be for steamers, so many having been commissioned in 1853. Leaving Admiral Corry's force at Lisbon, or sending it to Malta or to Constantinople, to strengthen Admiral Dundas, we have a goodly force, now, at the home ports. Enumerating them we find the following:—

PADDOLES.		SCREWS.	
Magicienne	16, Capt. Fisher.	Royal George	120, Capt. Codrington, C.B.
Basilik	6, Commander Hon. F. Egerton.	Princess Royal	91, Captain Lord C. Paget.
Medea	6, Comdr. Phillimore.	Cressy	81, Captain Warren.
Cyclops	6, Mast. Com. Roberts.	Blenheim	60, Captain Hon. F. Pelham.
SAILING SHIPS.			
Waterloo	120, Sheerness.	Hogue	60, Capt. W. Ramsay.
St. George	120, Devonport.	Edinburgh	58, Capt. Hewlett.
Neptune	120, Portsmouth.	Ajax	58, Captain Warden.
Monarch	81, Sheerness.	Buryalus	51, Capt. J. Ramey.
Boscawen	70, West. Indies.	Dauntless	33, Captain Ryder.
Pique	36, Fitting, Devonport.	Horatio	22, Com. Jenner.
Juno	26, Ditto.	With some smaller steamers and sailing-vessels.	
Racehorse	14, Ditto.		

This would make a large force; but there is not half a dozen of them fully manned, and few of the others have more than their complement of marines on board. Well fitted and manned, this force would be quite strong enough for any emergency.

It is rumoured that the *Neptune*, 120, will fit out for the Mediterranean, and the *Nelson*, 120, take her place as guard-ship at Portsmouth.

The *Cressy*, 80 guns, new screw steam-ship, Captain Warren, has been placed under the masting-shears in the fitting-basin, Sheerness, for the purpose of being masted. She is to be masted and rigged as a second-class line-of-battle ship.

The *Majestic*, 80 guns, new screw steam-ship, has received all her engine machinery on board; and, immediately the *Cressy* is masted, the boilers of the *Majestic* will be put into their places, and she will be got ready for sea.

COMBINED FLEETS IN THE BOSPHORUS.—The strength of the combined English and French fleets now in the Bosphorus amounts to 44 sail, including line-of-battle ships, frigates, and steamers. Of these the French and English have each three three-deckers; we have seven two-deckers (including the *Agamemnon*) to five French two-deckers, the French 90-gun screw-ship *Apollon* having, unfortunately, been sent back to Toulon for repairs. Each flag has, or will soon have, 11 paddle-wheel steamers. The *Sanspareil* (English) and the *Charlemagne* (French) two-deckers have auxiliary steam power. In addition to this powerful fleet, there are in the Bosphorus at least seven Turkish and Egyptian line-of-battle ships, besides frigates and steamers; so that the combined force may be taken at about 60 sail. From the large amount of steam power, the weight of guns, the size of these ships in proportion to their rating, and the perfection to which naval gunnery has now been carried both in the English and French navies, this is, beyond doubt, the finest naval armament ever sent to sea, though it might, if necessary, be powerfully augmented by the first class steam-ships and frigates which form Admiral Corry's squadron now at Lisbon. Those vessels are, however, probably reserved as the nucleus of the North Sea fleet in the spring. The best understanding prevails between the English and French officers, and the signal-books of the two squadrons have been exchanged, with an arrangement that, in sailing order, the French squadron will form the weather and the English the port line.

THE ENGLISH FLEET IN THE TAGUS.—The British squadron was still at anchor in that river on the 29th, and not likely to go to sea for some days. Admiral Corry intended to sail on the 24th ultimo; but, after the *Duke of Wellington* and *Imperieuse* had gone down below Belem in good style, they were recalled in consequence of a collision between the *St. Jean d'Acre*, Captain Keppel, and the *Desperate*, Captain Chambers, which, in the crash, dismasted the latter, and brought her mainmast down upon the *St. Jean d'Acre's* forecastle. It appears to have been providential that no lives were lost in what might have been so serious an affair. A court of inquiry is said to have found no one to blame, attributing the occurrence to the fresh-water current in the river and a sudden gust of adverse wind. It appears that both vessels were driving towards the south bank of the Tagus, and that the *St. Jean d'Acre* had no option but either to go on shore or run foul of the *Desperate*. The *St. Jean d'Acre* left the Tagus on the 28th, for a cruise to the Western Islands.

ABSTRACT OF WRECKS IN 1852.—The wrecks on the coasts and in the seas of the United Kingdom in the year 1852, were 1115 which may be thus classed:—

Totally wrecked	500
Totally lost in collision	33
Damaged seriously and had to discharge	554
Damaged seriously in collision	24

The number of casualties in each month were:—

January	126	May	41	September	85
February	77	June	29	October	164
March	32	July	18	November	189
April	41	August	42	December	208
Total, 1115					

Of these 464 occurred on the east coast of Great Britain; 158 on the south coast, and 235 on the west coast; 128 wrecks strewed the coasts of Ireland; 5 were cast on shore at Scilly; 9 at the Channel Islands; 18 at Orkney and Shetland, and 18 at the Isle of Man; the remainder, 80, occurred in the surrounding seas. The gales of January caused 126 casualties; they prevailed during the whole month and the early part of February. The succeeding months passed away unattended with gales of more than ordinary force; and a very moderate amount of casualties is recorded until the latter part of September, when they again began to increase—not however, unusually so—till later in October, on the 26th of which an easterly gale began that in six days strewed the coasts with 102 wrecks. Strong breezes, and a short lull of moderate winds until the 23rd of November, were followed by gales of ordinary force at this period of the year; but on the 24th December a heavy storm from the south-west burst over the country, and continued to the end of the year with such violence, that, by the 29th, there was scarcely a vessel in the neighbourhood of the British Islands left at sea. Some had found safety by running into port; while, of others, the returns show a list of 183 casualties; of these, 102 were totally wrecked, making an average of 30 wrecks a day during this awful and destructive gale.

LOSS OF THE "HUMBOLDT" STEAMER.—In our last Number we gave an illustration of the wreck of this fine steamer, near Halifax, North America. We now learn, from the *Halifax Chronicle*, that the loss of this ship is to be attributed to the ignorance of the person who attempted to pilot her into the harbour; and it also intimates that he was not an authorised pilot. The paper says, "There never was a more flagrant case. A fisherman appears on the deck of a steam-ship, with her cargo, is valued at 800,000 dollars. He represents himself to be a pilot, and, on being asked for his certificate, states that he has left it in his boat, or at home. Confiding in his statement, and naturally anxious to secure for their passengers rest and refreshments in a friendly port, the officers give him charge of the ship. He alters her course, contrary to their judgment. They remonstrate; he perseveres in his stupid ignorance; and in a few moments she strikes upon the 'Sisters,' and the sea rushes into her with such rapidity that there is no chance of rescuing human life but by a frightful squandering and waste of an enormous amount of capital. To punish that pilot, then, ought to be the first wise thought of every man interested in the character and prosperity of this fine seaport."

A FARCE OF "HONOUR."—A duel was arranged to come off near Eltham on Tuesday last, between a military officer and a naval officer from Woolwich, who were said to have quarrelled about a young woman. The second, however, having more common sense and discretion than the principals, brought the affair to an arrangement by proposing that each of the belligerents should present himself before the young woman for her to make choice between them. It is whispered that she was so prudent as to reject them both, as they deserved.—*South Eastern Gazette.*

THE CHINESE INSURRECTION.

THE events which are now taking place in China possess so world-wide an interest, and are so pregnant with stupendous changes affecting every people upon the face of the earth, that neither the distance of the theatre nor the nearer pressure of the great Eastern question, can divert the public mind from intense curiosity as to the origin, the progress, the present position, and the future prospects of this extraordinary struggle. The news received from time to time from the seat of war possesses us, though in an uncertain manner, of such intelligence as can be derived from the irregular and casual intercourse with the interior of the country, and seems to point at the probable overthrow of the reigning Tartar dynasty; but whether this should or should not become the catastrophe, a comprehensive glance at the Celestial Empire, and a retrospect at the growth of the rebellion, which fills it with discord and threatens its dissolution, can hardly fail to be acceptable to general readers.

An empire occupying nearly five and a half millions of square miles, and hitherto hedged in by a jealous policy unparalleled in the history of nations—a table land extending over a third of the Asian continent, containing a population of about an eighth of mankind, appears at last, after the endurance of many centuries, to be breaking up—letting the light of external day into its dark and guarded concealments, and resolving into other forms and elements of incalculable importance, not only to their own relations, but to the relations of the whole human race.

Their vast rivers, "sons of the ocean," heretofore hermetically sealed against foreign intrusion, must speedily be opened to the enterprise of commerce; and the wonderful fertility and wealth of this immense region—twelve times the extent of Great Britain—be no longer confined to the superfluous luxuries of a sensual slavery, but participated among the free, energetic, and progressive natives of many another clime. The great wall, sixty miles from Peking, may be tumbled down, unless the expulsion of the Tartar dynasty may lead to wars between the Tartars and Chinese, as before the conquest and union; but on all other sides the barriers are broken, and every point of the seaboard exposed to speculations, which cannot and will not be denied entrance.

Of the history of China, all that is needful for us to notice here is that the ancient Tsin dynasty was succeeded by that of Soong (about 950), which, after a time, called in the aid of the Mongols to enable them to resist the Tartars; the said Mongols changing the character of allies for conquerors; and, under the famous Kublai-Khan, establishing the Government at Peking, where his successors reigned and degenerated during nine successions, till 1366, when the Chinese dynasty of Ming again obtained the ascendancy, and ruled in comparative peace till 1618. At this epoch the native sway was again terminated; and, after a struggle of nearly thirty years, the present family of a race sprung from the expelled Mongols and East Tartars, mounted the throne. They are denominated Ta-Hsing, and are often spoken of in the Chinese accounts as the Shing-King, from the place of their birth.

From this period is dated the formation of secret societies, which, under various appellations, have pursued various courses, but generally merging in conspiracy to oust the Manchou usurpers. Except by overt acts, there has always been a difficulty in ascertaining exactly what was the condition and schemes of those associations whose mysteries were so studiously concealed, and also so cunningly varnished and misrepresented for the sake of diverting suspicion and misleading inquiry. Yet ever and anon the wrath of Government was excited, and hundreds of individuals were seized and decapitated *pour encourager les autres*. Yet, in spite of these raids, every province, especially in the west and south, was infected with unions, or *kongsis* of this kind, and, on the whole, deemed so dangerous, that the jealous laws pronounced the penalty of death for five persons associating together under any pretence. This only made secrecy more imperative, and multiplied the combinations, occasionally assuming the ostensible of charity, philanthropy, or the promotion of manufactures. Thus there were, among many more, the Great Ascending Society, the Society of Glory and Splendour, the White Jackets, the Red-Beards, the Short Swords, the White Water-Lily, the Sea and Land, the Righteous Rising, the Queen of Heaven—worshipping this divinity as the nurse of productiveness, and including housebreaking in its sacred duties—and the Union of the Three Great Powers of Heaven, Earth, and Man, spread far and wide throughout China, and prevalent and flourishing in Canton, the Straits of Malacca, and the whole Indian Archipelago. It is asserted, however, that this last Association can be traced to the third century of the Christian era, the time of a usurper named Tsau-Tsau. It is evident that the country was never tranquil under Mongol or Tartar, as it was under the succession of the thirteen intervening Chinese monarchs who formed the golden epoch of nearly three centuries between these usurping forces; and, in one semblance or another, secret plans for re-establishing a native authority have been cherished (when needed) for six or eight hundred years. So long have these aspirations been in existence; and their lasting is the less wonderful when we consider the character of the people. Precedent, tradition, custom, and habit, are as inexorably their rule, as the law of the Medes and Persians, which never altered. Generation after generation go in as animals do. From the head to the foot, the governing and the governed, the same immutability overrules all else. The Emperor reigns and dies; the Mandarins in all their nine ranks are buttoned and degraded; the officials are raised from the learned who pass their examinations successfully, or doomed to inferiority; the military have peacock's feathers, or are ordered to rip themselves up—in short, all ranks must submit to immemorial practices; and it is no surprising that opinions and feelings should be as faithfully preserved by so stationary a people.

A good deal of our difficulty in reading or understanding either ancient or modern information about China is found in the intricacies of the language and the confusion of titles, their interpretation, and translation. On consulting a learned Chinese scholar, we learn that the last-described society, the Secret Triad, is the Society of the Tien-ti-huih; and the next writer to whom we apply ourselves speaks of the Sanhoihwuy, or Society of the Three United, or of *jheen*, heaven; *te*, earth; and *jin*, man; the three great powers in nature, according to the Chinese doctrine of the universe.

These slighter discrepancies being made intelligible, all the accounts agree that the initiation of the members into the sacred bond of brotherhood are very solemn and appalling: the oaths are tremendous and damatory. The candidate must be manly and martial; and his firmness is tried by passing through or under swords, amid awful imprecations if he fail in his obligations. A wild tradition of three brothers connects this ceremony directly with the descriptions we have recently received of the three commanders of the insurgent forces. A black cow and a white horse were sacrificed to Heaven and Earth, in the garden, on the original compact. The three men burnt incense, reverently worshipped, and took the oath, saying, "Liu Pi, Kwan I, and Chang Fei, although of different surnames, are now united as *brethren*, joined hand and heart, &c., &c. "May the supreme heaven and the deep earth behold and establish our hearts; he that proves treacherous and ungrateful, may heaven and men join in his destruction!" The oath being ended, they honoured Hinen Teh as elder Brother, Kwan I as second Brother, and Chang Fei as younger

Brother—the very same distinction now held by the commanders of the rebel army at Nanking. The adventures of the first model trio might class with those of the heroes of Persian or Greek mythology, the legends of Scandinavia, or the exploits of knights who encountered magicians and giants in yet more stirring tales. Azure-coloured dragons, and, moon-ornamented scimitars, and well-tempered spears, eighteen feet long, are fearful weapons in their hands, and they slay fifty thousand enemies faster than *Bobadil* with his "twenty more, kill them too." But their history will not throw more light on the present; and, curious and amusing as it is, we put it aside to state that a regularly-descended branch of the fraternity was proscribed in the *Pekin Gazette* so recently as 1817, and several executions followed of criminals who made paper effigies of the Emperor, which the novices, on entering the society, cut in pieces. It was proved by a MS. discovered at Macao that they were conspiring for the destruction of the reigning Monarchy; and a number of their rules and customs were brought to light. There were no fewer than thirty-six oaths, all inculcating fidelity to the order, and perfect subordination. The finger was cut, and three drops of blood let fall into a chalice of spirits, and drunk—a dreaded corroboration of a Chinese oath, human blood being reckoned far more terrible for this purpose than the cutting off a cock's head—a sacrifice of great solemnity on such occasions.

Resemblances to the rites of Freemasonry, and the system of Secret Tribunals in Germany, are obvious in many parts of these Chinese communities.

At Hong-Kong, Mr. Gutzlaff found many papers belonging to the Triad Society, which gave a somewhat different version of its origination; but still resting in a hate of the Manchous, and a resolve to re-instate the Ming Chinese Sovereigns. In these the Society set forth the following religious principles:—"We consider Heaven as our father, the Earth as our mother, the Sun as our elder brother, the Moon as our elder sister; we pay respect to the true Son of Heaven, worship our five ancestors, (five bonzes or priests, whom they declare to be their founders, and not the three brothers before stated), treat with deference our brethren, and devote ourselves to a life of pleasure." They had a symbolical language, and hymns or songs by which to recognise each other; besides the signs in pouring out tea into cups, lighting their pipes, smoking opium, and other devices by which every kind of meaning was clandestinely communicated. These papers prove that they considered themselves a powerful body, and certain of the final result of their endeavouring to place a Chinese Monarch on the Throne.

Gradually increasing in numbers, strength, and organisation, the Triads continued to induce other patriotic societies to fraternise with them; and thus at length to make the head now seen against the Tartar oppressor of the peculiar Chinese race. One remarkable element consists of the Scholars, who have studied all the sages, and wish the world to be ruled by Confucius. Whether this body plays a subordinate or paramount part in the drama now acting, is one of the most interesting problems connected with its *dénouement*. A distinguished public officer, just returned from China, observed to us, in answer to an inquiry, that as far as he could ascertain, and his opportunities had been of the foremost order, the insurgents possessed all the elements of Destruction but none of Construction—they might overthrow a Government, but to recompose one would be out of their power. From our own investigations, agreeing entirely with this dictum, we would say, that though strictly applicable to the Triad leaders now in the field, we should not consider the task of reconstruction so unlikely were the Scholar section to acquire authority after the battle was won.

Of the elder society we may mention, that in the time of the last Emperor it flourished under the name of Theen-te-hwuy—the Celesto-Terrestrial Society, or the Society that unites Heaven and Earth. It then nearly succeeded in overturning the Government, and was only suppressed fifty years ago, when a number of chiefs were taken and cruelly put to death; and it was proclaimed, with the usual bombast of these vermilion documents, that "there was not one of that rebellious fraternity left under the wide extent of the Heavens!" The result was greater secrecy, and an accumulation of adherents; the assumption of the title of Triad—adding MAN to the preceding two great powers; and also adopting another distinction (not preserved throughout), viz., that of Hung-Kea, or the Flood family; but whether having reference to the Deluge, or being allegorical, to signify their overflowing all resistance, we cannot distinctly ascertain. Dr. Morrison gave a very unfavourable opinion of their objects—"theft, robbery, the overthrow of regular government, and an aim at political power; and the plunder divided in shares according to the rank the members held in the society." They levied black-mail and protection-money where they were strong enough; and their Government consisted of three persons, denominated "Ko" (Elder Brothers); thus distinguished: Yih-Ho, Urh-Ho, and San-Ho; i.e., Brother-First, Brother-Second, and Brother-Third—as we find them now on their march towards Peking, at the head of the Heung-té, or body of the "Brethren."

From these particulars we see that the threatened dissolution of the Tartar dynasty, and with it a great, probably a total, change in the condition of the Chinese empire, both as regards itself and its foreign relations, is but the consummation of the work of centuries; the peculiarities of which have depended on the peculiarities of this strange people.

The engrafting of several tenets on the preceding religious code (if it may be so called), which bear some analogy to the Protestant faith, is one of the most remarkable features in the case. As far as they can yet be made out, they are much more nearly allied to the Jewish dispensations, as related in the Old Testament, than to the humanising morality inculcated in the New. But whatever they are, they appear to be recently derived from missionary tracts, in which portions of the Bible were translated into Chinese, and scattered over the country. The destruction of idols and temples, and the massacres of men, women, and children have a striking resemblance to the historical wars of the children of Israel. At Nanking, above 20,000 Tartars were massacred, root and branch; and accredited report states that, on other occasions, the Roman Catholics—as worshippers of idols—have, in like manner, been sacrificed to the creed of *T'heen te Jin*.

Through their strange mingled yarn of doctrine and superstition, there are, without doubt, principles of Protestantism—however perverted or defiled. The Ten Commandments, the nature and observances of prayer, and a glimmering of the Christian Trinity, and the salvation of the world by the Second Person, are observable in their books and official documents. Tai Ping Wang, their chief leader, though revered as a god, "the Mighty Pacificator," is said to have been taught by an American missionary; and either this fact, or the fact of other missionary intercourse, would account for some of the anomalies to which we are alluding. The astute Chinese could not fail to learn the schism between Protestant and Roman Catholic Christians, and the greater difference of the former from the Tartar idolatrous rites and ceremonials, which it is his object to destroy. Thus, what the Jesuits permitted, and to a certain extent conformed to, with the view of converting proselytes, has, in the issue, turned to the disadvantage of their creed; and the more distinct shape of Calvinism has been assumed, either from principle or policy, as likely to neutralise the hostility or excite the sympathy of Great Britain and America in their cause. This is far sighted, and yet precisely what was to be expected from the acute character of the insurgent leaders, "the Celestial King," and his four fellow

generals, the Kings of the East, North, West, and South. Their puritanical demeanour and fanaticism may be genuine or put on for this great purpose, and the importance of the adopted line is demonstrated in the neutrality of the (now no longer) "outside barbarians," and the voice of the countries most intimately connected with China, in their favour.

The result is now imminent. The young Emperor, who on his ascension in 1850 took the palpable misnomer of "Complete Abundance," is reduced to his last defences, after degrading and executing Mandarins and military commanders without number, who have failed in "exterminating the rebellious monsters." The chances are against him. The English war led to much disaffection and anarchy; and, what was still more dangerous, allowed multitudes of the people to get arms, previously so rigidly proscribed. The learned, on whom, by the constitution and practice of the Empire all offices of trust were conferred, were disgusted by the sale of preferments to the merely wealthy classes, in order to raise money for the payment of subsidies imposed by the victorious English. Manchou Tartary is too thinly populated to supply reinforcements sufficient to withstand the insurgents, who have now been three years in the field, and continually advancing. Famine, above all, menaces the overthrow of the reigning dynasty; for, owing to the patriarchal form of the Government—always looked up to for food, as the father of a family is by his children—scarcity has never failed to stimulate revolt; and there are not now, as usual, vast stores and granaries to meet the exigencies of the case. On the contrary, all has been consumed; and the last edicts of the Emperor are appeals *ad misericordiam*—apparently the last sighs and groans of a departing empire. The insurgents were, according to the latest advices, about to march, in two great divisions, upon Peking; and it is not improbable that we shall soon hear of the fall of the northern or Tartar capital; and that its Sardanapalus has followed the example of his dignified mandarins, and swallowed that suicidal ounce of gold leaf in pills, with which they put an end to their forlorn existence.

Judging from the past, the Imperialists cannot avert this inevitable destiny; and the present generation will live to see such changes in the whole world's business, through the emancipation of China, with its 350 millions of inhabitants, as the wildest dreamer of what Free-trade might effect could never imagine within ten thousand degrees.

CHINESE MILITARY PICTURE DESPATCH.

WE annex a fac-simile of a Despatch sent by the Imperial officers to Peking, announcing the re-capture of Chin-kiang, or Tching-kiang, from the insurgents. The Despatch in question is a woodcut, of which the colouring is chiefly a dull red, a few parts, together with the writing, being black. The insurgents may generally be distinguished by having merely coarse wrappers round their heads, instead of a sort of helmet, or by wearing long hair. The Mandarins, with their attendants, are in the upper right hand corner of the picture, admiring the prowess of their troops. The dress and general appearance of Chinese soldiers are given with great accuracy.

We must add, that the event portrayed in this is sheer invention; the town having been found by the English authorities to be still quietly in possession of the insurgents long after the date of its asserted re-capture. Had the Duke of Wellington been a General *à la Chinoise*, he would, no doubt, on raising the siege of Burgos, have sent to England an announcement of the capture of the place, with a spirited sketch of the final assault, for insertion in the *Gazette*.

Tching-kiang, the scene of this imaginary victory, is situate on the Yang-tse-kiang river, between Nankin and its mouth, and is a place of great importance.

THE CITIES OF LONDON AND PARIS.—The Lord Mayor has received an answer to the address presented to the Municipality of Paris, recording the reception of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council of the City of London in the year 1851. The document, which is framed and emblazoned in the most splendid and tasteful manner, acknowledges, on the part of the Prefect of the Department of the Seine, and the members composing the municipal body of the City of Paris, the courteous address forwarded through the medium of her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris; and, after expressing satisfaction at this new proof of the close union which exists between England and France, conveys the assurance that the municipality of Paris, like that of London, appreciates the benefits of the happy brotherhood which peaceful competitions tend to establish between civilised nations. This document is dated "August 13, 1852," and is accompanied by a note, dated the "17th of December, 1853," from the present Prefect of the Seine; the receipt of which was acknowledged on the 22nd of December last by the Lord Mayor, who expresses an earnest hope "that the reciprocation of kindly feelings, which were cemented by the Great Exhibition of 1851, may long be cherished by two such powerful and distinguished communities as the cities of Paris and London."

CAUTION TO CAPTAINS OF PASSENGER SHIPS.—The *Melbourne Herald* of the 10th of September gives an account of a punishment inflicted in Melbourne on Captain Howes, of the *Asia*, under the following circumstances:—Captain Howes was convicted at Williamstown police-court of divers breaches of the Passengers Act in the passage of the ship from England to Australia, and was fined in the aggregate amount of £1800. In default of payment, Captain Howes has been sentenced to a period of imprisonments amounting altogether to nearly thirty years—a period longer than the whole past lives of the majority of the colonists. This tremendous sentence has begun to take effect.

A SNAKE IN A FIX.—A Texas correspondent of a New York paper gives the following snake story:—"One night myself, my wife, and myself were awakened by a noise from a shelf which contained our small store of crockery, followed by a crash, which showed that a great portion of our cups and plates had been flung on the floor. Springing up to discover the author of this 'attack upon china,' I found a large snake in a somewhat unpleasant 'fix.' He had crawled upon the shelf, attracted by a number of eggs which were scattered about. One of these he had swallowed, and, in order to get at the next, he had put his head and a portion of his body through the handle of a jug, which happened to stand between the coveted delicacies. The handle was just open enough to let his body, in its natural state, slip cleverly through, but not sufficient to let it pass when pulled out by the egg. In this position he had swallowed the second egg. His snakeship thus found himself unable to advance or retreat, and, in floundering about to escape from this novel straits, had caused the accident which had aroused us. I, of course, proceeded at once to execute summary justice upon the interloper; but the eggs which he had swallowed were a dead loss."

DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.—A very large amount of property was destroyed on Saturday night, by a fire which broke out among the large warehouses in Cheapside and the immediate neighbourhood. The fire commenced on the premises of Messrs. Townley, hat-manufacturer, and ran along the back warehouses, bring in succession the premises of Messrs. Liddiard and Co., 61, Friday-street; those of Messrs. E. Willett and Co., No. 63; and those of Messrs. Mair and Son, No. 60, all warehouses. At the same time the flames were driven into the warehouses of Messrs. Mackerrow and Sons, manufacturers, No. 54, Bread-street, and those of Messrs. Douglas and Co., manufacturers, No. 6 in the same street. The firemen of the Brigade and West of England office made a vigorous attempt to contain the fire to the scene of its present operations, but without the least success, the flames extending to the warehouses of Mr. W. May, jun., silk and mohair manufacturer, No. 4, Bread-street; also into those of Mr. Thomas Greenless, warehouseman; and likewise into the property of Messrs. Broughton, Son, and Co., hardware and button warehousemen. The flames illuminated Bow Church, and brought out in bold relief the beautiful tracery round the gallery of St. Paul's Cathedral, so great was the main body of fire that for hours and the men could do was to cut off the flames when they threatened to seize upon the contiguous houses. Most of the premises and stock appear to have been insured. The fire was not fairly extinguished until Tuesday. The damage is estimated at from £80,000 to £100,000.—Several other serious fires have since taken place. On Tuesday evening, between eleven and twelve, the residence of Lord Normanston 3, Seymour-place, Curzon-street, May-fair, took fire, and considerable damage was done before it was extinguished. On Tuesday morning the premises of Messrs. Hobb, lock-manufacturers, Cheapside, took fire, and nearly destroyed the whole building. On Wednesday morning the Lansdowne Arms, Old Paradise-row, Islington, was found to be on fire about half-past one; and, so strong a hold had the flames obtained, that the inmates escaped with great difficulty. Owing to the deep snow, the supply of water was short, and the consequence was that the flames extended to the neighbouring premises. The property destroyed is valued at several thousand pounds.

The military lines to the north and east of Devonport, long left unfinished, are now under the hands of engineers. It would seem to be the intention of the authorities to complete them.



CHINESE MILITARY DESPATCH.—(SEE PRECEDING PAGE.)

CAVALRY: ITS HISTORY AND TACTICS.*

THE Encampment at Chobham has awakened that degree of public interest in the condition of our army without which it is impossible to effect any great reform in this country. In no branch of our military armament is reform more needed than in the cavalry, which has for a period beyond the memory of living men been given up to the control of foreign martinetts, and Royal tailors.

We are the best horsemen in the world, take us for all in all—that is to say, a given number of Englishmen, mounted on any horses, with or without saddles, will get over a rough broken country in a shorter time, in better condition, than any other civilised nation. We ought to have, and could have, the best horses in the world. With these advantages to start from we ought to have a high and special reputation for our cavalry, which we have never earned.

Why we are deficient where we ought to excel, and how we may attain the superiority due to our condition, Captain Nolan has come forward to tell us, in a capital book, written with full knowledge of the subject, both practical and theoretical; exhibiting, at the same time, enthusiasm and admirable common sense. Having served with our own army in India and with foreign armies on the Continent, he is able to speak with much more confidence and experience than the most learned pupil of riding-schools and reviews.

The first two chapters contain an historical sketch of cavalry, from the earliest times down to 1815. The remainder of the work is descriptive, critical, and suggestive. Although mainly addressed to the profession, to which the author belongs, there are considerable portions which will interest, and be fully appreciated by all the horse-riding public.

At the conclusion of his historical sketch, he comes to the following conclusions:—that "individual prowess, skill in single combats, good horsemanship, and sharp swords, render cavalry formidable." "That in the long run light active horsemen have prevailed over heavily equipped cavalry, and that speed and endurance are to be specially prized in the horseman." "Therefore our European cavalry is not organized on an efficient system." "For the present riding drill makes few good horsemen. The swords blunted by steel scabbards, are not efficient weapons. Speed and endurance cannot be expected from horses that are overweighted."

Pace is power: the heavier the man, his arms, and accoutrements, the less his power of moving rapidly or long. Captain Nolan objects to placing grenadiers of six feet on horseback. He shows, by quotation from authentic evidence, that Indian Irregular Cavalry, with sharp swords, on small horses, have inflicted more formidable and more numerous sword cuts than any European Cavalry, number for number. The cuirass gives weight, yet leaves the arms, the legs, the head, unprotected; yet the moment either of the horseman's arms is wounded, it signifies not which arm, he is at the mercy of his adversary. "If a heavy-armed horseman gallops and exerts himself only for a few minutes the horse is beat by the weight, and the rider is exhausted in supporting himself and his armour in the saddle; his sword arm hangs helplessly by his side; he can hardly raise his heavy broadsword." "Let those who have seen the exhausted state of our splendid Life Guards or Blues after a sharp canter as Royal escort, imagine what their condition would be after a sharp march over a stiff broken country."

The nations of the Continent cannot obtain sufficiently well-bred horses, of size and power, to carry their heavy cavalry, and are, therefore, obliged to mount their heavy dragoons on large, clumsy, and slow horses. To make the best of a bad job they case them in armour, in order that they may have a better chance of reaching the point of attack alive. England, if reduced "to mount her heavy dragoons on Barclay and Perkins' dray horses, would most likely imitate the French charge at a trot, or arm the men *cap-a-pied*; but whilst no dearth of horses has reduced her to this expedient, it is truly pitiful that she should copy from such bad originals as Continental cuirassiers." Heavy cavalry should have the largest and most powerful horses; but their men and their accoutrements should be light. "If you weight powerful horses with heavy men and accoutrements you bring them down to the level of smaller and weaker horses." Certainly, war is harder work than hunting; and, in hunting the object is always to have a horse above your weight. Properly mounted and armed, our English dragoons could, on an emergency, make their way across a country where no foreign dragoons could ride and follow.

With these views Captain Nolan would discard the cuirass, give the dragoon a neat short frock coat, the sleeve from the elbow to button slashed, so as to turn back, for work, in a long cuff; cover the hand and arm with a steel gauntlet, formed so as to leave the inside of the hand naked, to grasp a sword. This would be light yet strong enough to ward off a disabling blow. Put on the head a well-ventilated not too heavy helmet, and arm with a really sharp sword, with a grip well fitted to the hand, substituting a leather or wooden scabbard for the steel, which renders it impossible to keep a sword sharp. "To me it appears we have too much frippery, too much toggery, too much weight in things worse than useless. To a cavalry soldier every ounce is of consequence. I can never believe that our hussar uniform is the proper dress to scramble through thickets, to ford or swim rivers, to bivouac, to be nearly always on outpost work, to 'rough it' in every possible manner." Instead of overalls or trousers, which are constantly getting torn, rotten with mud, and inconvenient from the straps, Captain Nolan recommends overalls without straps, ankle boots, and black leather leggings, made in the shape of Napoleon boots, with a covered bar of steel running down the side, fastened with straps above and below; with fixed spurs attached, to be only worn when mounted, and to be left hanging to the saddle when dismounted in the field. Thus while the dragoon would be unencumbered with spurs and straps when dismounted, when mounted he would have the comfort and strength given by boots, an advantage which every hunting man knows.

With regard to fire-arms, he would give them short handy rifles (we suggest that if loaded at the breech on the American "Mould's" plan, exhibited at the Institute of Civil Engineers' last soirée, so much the better); and he recommends for carrying the rifle a bell-mouthed holster, open at the bottom, fastened below the off-wallet, pointing to the horse's shoulder. To this plan there are several strong objections. The bullet shakes down, and the gun misses fire or bursts.

Mr. Francis Galton, in his recent "Travels through Tropical South Africa," recommends the Hottentot method of carrying a gun as far better than any other, viz.:—"Have a case of strong leather of such size and shape as to admit the gun-stock a little stiffly (See Cut). This case is fastened tightly above to rings or clees in the pommel of the saddle; below it is unsupported, except by a thong which passes round the saddle-girth, and keeps the gun-case from tilting too far forward. The gun is pushed stock downwards into the case; the barrel passes between the right arm and the side; while the muzzle is so clear of the person, that, even in taking a drop leap, it never shifts into a dangerous position. The hands of the rider are free; the lock is in full sight; a cover to keep out rain is easily put on. In a moment the gun is out of the case—almost as quickly as a whip could be raised."

Captain Nolan's improvements in the saddle must be reserved for separate illustration. But, supposing the horse, the rider, the costume, the arms, and the accoutrements, as near perfection as possible, all will be useless without a good seat. With a good seat and a good horse, a bold man can ride over anything; with a weak horse, or a loose seat, a stick can turn his sabre.

We ride across country in a style no other European native can equal, yet we are silly enough to import our system of military riding from the Continent. When we fly across the pastures of Leicestershire or Northamptonshire, we sit back, bend the knee, and grip firm with thigh and calf, with the leg straight from the knee. In our cavalry we ride by balance. Our officers have one style for show and another for work. The established military seat is upright. The knee drawn back and the heel in a perpendicular line with the point of the shoulder. The man's legs, from the knee down, are carefully brought away from the horse in order to prevent what is called "clinging." A form of riding, in which not one man in a hundred could get across a dozen fences on a pulling horse. The balanced seat originated in times when knights sheathed in armour, ran a course with lance in rest. "The upright seat enabled them to carry the weight of the armour with more ease; the long stirrup supported the leg at that point to which the weight of the armour pressed it down. They were obliged to study balance on horseback; for the equilibrium once lost, no effort of strength could save them—the weight of armour brought them to the ground. The

necessity has long ceased to exist, but the system is kept up"—perhaps, chiefly, because cavalry are the toys of kings and princes, and there is something showy and imposing in the balanced seat of a tall horseman on a well-trained fiery horse. But those who have only learned to ride by balance are helpless on untrained horses. The dif-



HOTTENTOT MODE OF CARRYING A GUN.

ference between a school-rider and a real horseman is this: the one depends upon guiding and managing his horse for his seat; the other depends upon his seat for controlling his horse. According to our English system, we rise on the seat, thus easing the horse. According to the continental and military system, the horseman bumps up and down, wearing out himself, and giving his horse a sore back. Captain Nolan wisely re-



THE MILITARY SEAT AND COSTUME AS IT OUGHT TO BE.

commends us to stick to the seat we practise as a nation of foxhunters while teaching our dragoons how to work their horses with hand and leg, so as to make them as handy as Eastern cavalry. His idea of what a seat should be and should not be is exemplified in the two accompanying illustrations, copied from the work under review:—



THE MILITARY SEAT AND COSTUME AS IT IS.

In the first, the horseman is in a position to gallop fast, leap anything, hold and control a fractious horse, and hit hard. In the second, if the horse pull hard or become restive, half the rider's strength must be exhausted in preserving his balance—hold him in he cannot. We conclude our notice of this valuable contribution to military literature without being able, from want of space, to make further extracts from a crowd of interesting historical passages and anecdotes.

* By Captain L. E. NOLAN. Bosworth.

THE IMPROVEMENTS IN PARIS.

LONDON astonishes us by its *ensemble*. Paris charms by its individual features. It may be said of these two great capitals, that the first commands admiration, like those majestic women, of handsome Juno-like features, who owe their charms to a regular and perfect harmony of proportion; of the other, that it pleases, like those women who, without being strictly beautiful, irresistibly captivate us by their expression of countenance, by their *piquante* liveliness, by the grace of their person and the *je ne sais quoi* which fascinate as entirely as beauty itself. The traveller, fresh from the grandeur of London, the magnificence of its streets and squares, and the imposing spectacle of the Thames, is, on his arrival in Paris, first impressed by the narrowness of its streets, with their inextricable windings, which exactly resemble a skein of silk entangled. He is struck especially by the absence in the houses of that decent exterior which characterises our English cities. To find the proper character of the physiognomy of Paris we must enter into its details. When we have visited its monuments, its treasures of art, its public institutions, its curiosities of all kinds, we feel that we are in the midst of a people who, in attaining to the splendid and the showy, sometimes sacrifice the enjoyments and comforts indispensable to the Englishman.

During the reign of Louis Philippe, great improvements were made in Paris. New quarters of the city, well built and airy, were substituted for squalid and ill-drained districts. The fine double line of quays which border the Seine along the entire length of the city is a remarkable work, which France owes to the same Monarch. The present Emperor, actuated not only by good intentions, but probably also by the suggestions of public policy which represented the necessity of creating great public works, in order to find occupation for the working classes, has prosecuted the good work commenced by Louis Philippe with the suddenness and vigour which characterise his acts, and has organised a series of gigantic enterprises, the result of which will be to effect the entire transformation of Paris.

The first and the most important of the improvements now being made in Paris is doubtless the junction of the Louvre and the Palace of the Tuilleries, and the opening up the approaches to the north of these two edifices. This project, conceived by Napoleon I., but which he could only partly execute, had been abandoned after his time by reason of the enormous expense which it entailed. In 1849 the National Assembly, wishing to find employment for a portion of the industrious classes, had decreed the completion of the Louvre, under the name of the People's Palace. This decree was not put in execution. It is this project considerably expanded, which is now being carried out, under the orders of Louis Napoleon, with such remarkable promptitude. It is to him the Parisians owe the destruction of the wretched hovels which encumbered the space between the Louvre and the Palace of the Tuilleries, and to him also they are indebted for the prolongation of the Rue Rivoli as far as the Place du Louvre. This undertaking has been conducted with such activity that the space between the two buildings has long since been cleared; and in less than a year the wing, which is too close in on the northern side the immense Place du Carrousel, is already half finished. The street, which is to run by its side, is laid out as far as the Louvre, and even beyond it, as we shall hereafter describe. The total expense of this construction, including the cost of purchasing the houses demolished, amounts to the sum of £1,913,000.

M. Visconti's plan consists of two detached edifices parallel to the wings of the Louvre, and which stand a little in front of the west façade of the Palace. These two edifices are destined—that to the north for the residence of the Minister of the Interior; and that to the south, very probably, for a barracks. They will be separated from one another by two semicircular enclosures; in the centre of one of which will be placed a colossal statue of Louis XIV., and in the other a statue of Napoleon. The façade of the Louvre which opens upon the Tuilleries will be modified. The vast square thus formed may, upon occasion, be converted into a formidable fortress and *place d'armes*.

The prolongation of the Rue de Rivoli, which is to be carried on simultaneously with the completion of the Louvre, is a work of more decided utility. It necessitates the removal of low and filthy streets, the neighbourhood of which disgraced one of the most magnificent quarters of Paris. The piazza of the Rue de Rivoli will be continued along the Louvre, and around the Place du Palais Royal, which is about to be enlarged. A square will replace the houses, at this moment in process of demolition, at the end of the Rue Richelieu, and will extend as far as the Théâtre Française, the approaches to which will thus be cleared. The purchase of the houses pulled down for the purpose of clearing the approaches of the Louvre and the Tuilleries, has amounted to the sum of £1,200,000.

The space comprised between the Place du Louvre and the Place de l'Hôtel de Ville presents a labyrinth of streets both straight and crooked, unwholesome, occupied in a great measure by wholesale dealers, who found in the old and dark houses of this lifeless quarter warehouses at a low rent. The idea of cutting through this neighbourhood by a great connecting street had been long entertained; and a very old project, which dated from the construction of the colonnade of the Louvre under Louis XIV., made this street end at the eastern door of the Louvre, on one side, and on the other at the Bastille, following the line of the Rue St. Antoine, which was intended to absorb. The municipal administration decided to continue the Rue de Rivoli on this side of the Place du Louvre towards the east in the direction of the Hôtel de Ville. This immense enterprise, which will give to the Rue de Rivoli a total length of nearly three miles, and a width of about 70 English feet, has been executed in less than a year, and the greater number of the new houses which are to form this magnificent thoroughfare are already constructed. The mania for building upon the land re-sold by the city has been powerfully stimulated by the legislative provision which exempts them from the land-tax, and from the door and window-tax, for twenty years. The number of houses demolished for the purposes of the new street of this part of the Rue de Rivoli is 240; they have cost the city about £1,000,000.

The passage of the new street across the ancient streets has occasioned differences of level which have rendered necessary a general survey, and this has led to a great number of new demolitions. Advantage has been taken to straighten and enlarge a crowd of cross streets, especially the Rue St. Martin, one of the great arteries of Paris, where the soil had risen twelve feet above that of the Rue Rivoli. The expense of this feature of the work has been about £300,000.

In this sweeping clearance, which has just effaced entire streets from the maps of Paris, all of them extremely ancient, archaeological science will have to regret numerous losses, and history many precious souvenirs. The house which, under the name of the Hôtel Coligny, recalled one of the most execrable crimes that attended the massacre of St. Bartholomew—the death of the brave and virtuous Admiral de Coligny, the victim of his attachment to Protestantism—has been totally demolished. One monument only has escaped the general destruction. We mean the Tower of St. Jacques la Boucherie, one of the most interesting remains of Christian architecture, in the style of the Renaissance. It will occupy the centre of a square, one of the sides of which will be formed by the Rue Rivoli. The improvements of this quarter have required the destruction of 167 houses.

The quarter of the Hôtel de Ville in particular reaps the greatest advantages from the continuations of the Rue de Rivoli. A barracks for 2000 men has been constructed behind the edifice, in a position which commands at once the Rue de Rivoli, the Hôtel de Ville, and the Rue St. Antoine. The construction of this barracks, which has a frontage of 300 feet, has cost the State, which has borne the whole expense, the sum of £450,000; the land, given by the city, being estimated at an equal sum. The block of houses which fronted the Hôtel de Ville to the west has been razed to the ground, and the new habitations will be carried further back, with a symmetrical façade opening upon the square. They will be constructed uniformly of five stories, at the height of forty-eight feet, with projecting cornice carried along on the same line, and windows adorned with striking mouldings.

The central markets are to be rebuilt upon a larger scale. These works are already in course of execution; they necessitate the purchase of property to the value of one million sterling. The construction of the stalls destined for the service of the dealers will cost the sum of £222,000; the approaches to the Halles will be entirely new; and the quarter, which up to this moment has been one of the most filthy in Paris, will become one of the most airy and the most easy of access.

If we add to this mass of alterations and improvements which will absorb a capital of £6,000,000, exclusive of the rebuilding (to be carried on at the cost of the new proprietors), the immense works which are being executed in other quarters of Paris—such, for example, as the laying down of the new Boulevard de Strasbourg, which opens upon the southern façade of the railway of that name, as far as the Boulevard St. Denis; the opening of the new Rue Napoleon, in the Faubourg St. Germain; the works for the canalisation of the Seine, under the southern portion of the Pont Neuf—we shall not exaggerate when we say that the building trades employ at this moment in Paris a capital of £15,000,000 for the prosecution of the improvements.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, January 3.—1st Sunday after Epiphany.
MONDAY, 4.—1st Sunday after Epiphany. Cape of Good Hope taken, 1800.
TUESDAY, 5.—James Watt born, 1736. Royal Exchange burnt, 1838.
WEDNESDAY, 6.—Hilary Term begins.
THURSDAY, 7.—Hilary Term begins. C. J. Fox born, 1749.
FRIDAY, 8.—Hilary Term begins.
SATURDAY, 9.—Hilary Term begins.

HIGH WATER AT LONDON-BRIDGE,
FOR THE WEEK ENDING JANUARY 14.

Hour	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	11 15	11 20	11 25	11 30	11 35	11 40
2	11 45	11 50	11 55	12 00	12 05	12 10
3	12 15	12 20	12 25	12 30	12 35	12 40
4	12 45	12 50	12 55	1 00	1 05	1 10
5	1 15	1 20	1 25	1 30	1 35	1 40
6	1 45	1 50	1 55	2 00	2 05	2 10
7	2 15	2 20	2 25	2 30	2 35	2 40
8	2 45	2 50	2 55	3 00	3 05	3 10
9	3 15	3 20	3 25	3 30	3 35	3 40
10	3 45	3 50	3 55	4 00	4 05	4 10
11	4 15	4 20	4 25	4 30	4 35	4 40
12	4 45	4 50	4 55	5 00	5 05	5 10
13	5 15	5 20	5 25	5 30	5 35	5 40
14	5 45	5 50	5 55	6 00	6 05	6 10
15	6 15	6 20	6 25	6 30	6 35	6 40
16	6 45	6 50	6 55	7 00	7 05	7 10
17	7 15	7 20	7 25	7 30	7 35	7 40
18	7 45	7 50	7 55	8 00	8 05	8 10
19	8 15	8 20	8 25	8 30	8 35	8 40
20	8 45	8 50	8 55	9 00	9 05	9 10
21	9 15	9 20	9 25	9 30	9 35	9 40
22	9 45	9 50	9 55	10 00	10 05	10 10
23	10 15	10 20	10 25	10 30	10 35	10 40
24	10 45	10 50	10 55	11 00	11 05	11 10
25	11 15	11 20	11 25	11 30	11 35	11 40
26	11 45	11 50	11 55	12 00	12 05	12 10
27	12 15	12 20	12 25	12 30	12 35	12 40
28	12 45	12 50	12 55	1 00	1 05	1 10
29	1 15	1 20	1 25	1 30	1 35	1 40
30	1 45	1 50	1 55	2 00	2 05	2 10

TO CORRESPONDENTS

INVESTIGATOR is anxious to ascertain if there be in existence any descendant of the Rev. John Parry, who was Rector of Aston Somerville in 1662. Perhaps some one of our Correspondents can afford the information.

ANNESTWICH and C. H. C.—A lady is not, under any circumstances, entitled to bear a crest.

WILKINSON—Clark's "Heraldry."

WILKINSON—The penalty of death attaches to the crime.

A FENCIBLE—The two surnames will descend to all his posterity, except, of course, the descendants of married daughters.

H. A. D.—A person, A. B., is clearly entitled to quarter his grandmother's Arms, if she was an heiress. A maternal grandmother, although an heiress, would not confer the right, unless the daughter (the mother of A. B.) was a co-heiress.

T. H.—Angled-read.—We have not space to print descriptions of the Arms, Crests, Supporters, and Mottoes of Lords Hardinge and Exeter. They can be found in any recent "Peerage."

UN BORNAT—Militia officers are entitled to place cockades in their private hats. Militia officers have no special precedence.

W. M. HASTINGS—Arms of Pole, Lord Montague: Per pale or and gu., a saltire engr. counterchanged. Arms of Ferrers of Chartley: Vert or and gu. Arms of Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick: Gu. a fesse between six cross crosslets or. Arms of Valence, Earl of Pembroke: Barry arg. and az. an erle of martlets gu. Arms of Fitz Osbert, Earl of Hereford: Gu. a bend arg., over all a fesse or. Arms of Fitz Waler, Earl of Essex: Quarterly or and gu. a bordure vert.

A. Z.—Elizabeth, Countess Dowager of Hardwicke, widow of Philip, third Earl, is alive. Her Ladyship was born 11th Oct. 1763, and has, consequently, completed her 90th year. Anne, Dowager Lady Grenville, widow of Lord Grenville, is also living, aged 81.

OMER PACHA.—Edward Vernon Harbord, fourth Lord Somers, died Aug. 22, 1853, at Gunton Park, Norfolk.

ZENO.—Arms of Gillen of Westmoreland: Or a bear passant sa. Crest: A pine-branch vert.

T. T. B.—Arms of Hills of Colne park, Essex: Erm. on a fesse sa., a castle with two towers ppr. Crest: A castle as in the arms. Motto: *Et daret cul vide.*

DELTA.—Arms of Mason of Yorkshire: Per fesse or and gu., a lion rampant counterchanged.

A FENCIBLE—Arms of Jamison: Az. a saltire or, cantoned by ships under sail, in chief and flanks, and a mullet in base arg. Crest: A ship in full sail, her flag displayed gu. Motto: *Sine metu.*

W. J.—Arms of Nicholl: Sa. Three pheons arg. Crest: A Cornish Chough. Wings elevated ppr., perched on the battlements of a tower arg.

DE MOWBRAY.—Arms of Cosens: Az. on a bend or betw. two lions rampant arg. three martlets of the first. Crest: A Cockatrice, wings erect or.

ALPHA.—The Arms are those of Atkinson, of Newcastle.

CHEVALIER.—All the ex-Lords-Lieutenant of Ireland are entitled to wear the Insignia of the Order of St. Patrick, although not Knights of the Order.

D. G. L.—1st. The wife of the son is Mrs. Smith. The widow of the father is the dowager Mrs. Smith, or Mrs. Smith, senior. 2nd. The son of an heiress entitled to a quartered coat may, with perfect heraldic propriety, bear his shield thus:—1st and 4th, his paternal coat; 2nd, his mother's paternal arms; 3rd, the quartering to which his mother was entitled.

M. A. F.—A wife should use her husband's arms without crest or motto.

H. A. W.—The Fenwicks of Maldon were a well-known branch of the Fenwicks of Northumberland. Our Correspondent informs us that the male descendants of Mr. Fenwick, who represented Newcastle-on-Tyne during the reign of George II., are now resident in the West of England, and retain the motto, "Perit ut vivat."

A CONSTANT READER.—Arms of Langmead, of Devon: "Gu. a lion rampant arg., on a chief wavy of the last, a leopard's face between two cinquefoils. Crest: A spur between two wings."

J. C. E.—Is very desirous of information as to the pedigree and arms of the family of Roughley, of Shirley, or Shirley Hall, near St. Helena, Lancashire. Can any of our readers indicate where such may be obtained.

J. J. T. M.—The peer's or baronet's daughter would not lose her innate precedence of marriage. We do not think the wives of M.P.'s have any precedence as such.

G. D. C.—Can any of our Correspondents explain the origin of the Bee as an emblem of the Napoleonic dynasty?

REYNOLDS.—Arms of Downer: "Gd. a chev. or, between three peacocks arg. Crest: Two hands conjoined in fesse, winged at the wrist."

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 7th, 1854.

THE unanimity of feeling with which the English people demands a war with Russia will greatly facilitate the labours of the approaching Session of Parliament. The nation has learned to detest war, and the authors of war; but, with that innate common sense which inspires mankind in the mass, it feels that the best way to end a war is to carry it on vigorously. It is quite certain that the nation will begrudge no sacrifice to restrain and punish the Russian aggressor, and to maintain the national dignity and honour, as well as the equilibrium of Europe. In prosecuting the war, the Ministers will have no internal difficulties to contend with. The necessary funds will be cheerfully voted, and as cheerfully paid; and the highest honours that the country can bestow will be lavished upon the Admirals who shall destroy the Russian fleets in the Buxino and the Baltic. At such a time, and with such a task before it, the nation will scarcely expect the Ministry to make any fiscal experiments, unless with the object of increasing taxation. Although such brilliant success has attended the commercial policy of the last seven years, and although the results of Mr. Gladstone's admirable Budget of 1850 might well justify him in proposing a further extension of Free-trade principles in 1854, it is probable that the nation will have to wait for more tranquil times for the abolition of the many impolitic taxes that still operate injuriously upon the trade, the health, and the morals of the people. Yet, even at such a crisis, it may be wise to make some exceptions in favour of the nations with whom we are at peace. A Russian war will not greatly interfere with our commerce, and any fiscal relaxations that shall tend to increase our trade with friendly or allied states, may enable us to bear with greater ease the war burdens that will necessarily be laid upon us. For the first time in their history, Great Britain and France are cordially united upon a question on which the sympathies and good wishes of the whole civilized world are with them. Free-trade has answered so well with us, that the French Emperor—already more than half a convert—meditates its introduction into France. The French nation is not so well informed as its chief; but Louis Napoleon has lost no opportunity that ever presented itself to him, of introducing the wedge of social policy into the dense block of Protection. The reduction of the duties on iron and coal is a strong proof of what he would do if the French nation were sufficiently enlightened to support and follow him. If one thing more than another has strengthened the Protectionist

error in France, and kept up a spirit commercial hostility towards this country, it has been the heavy impost which Great Britain has laid upon French wines. France, though an agricultural country, grows no more corn than she needs; but she produces the best, the most abundant, and the cheapest wines in the world. It is no exaggeration to say that she could send to this country an almost limitless supply. But unwise legislation has forbidden the English the use of the wholesome beverage. Had we traded with France for her wines, as we might have done, both nations would not only have been better friends, but each would have been richer; and the English people would not have incurred the reproach of being, next to the Scotch, the most drunken people under the sun. There can, we think, be scarcely a doubt that the admission of French wines into this country, either free or at a nominal duty, would help to convince the French people of the firm friendship of England. Such a measure would prove to them the excellence of Free-trade far better than any which their own Emperor can adopt. A duty of 300, or even 400, per cent, which is levied upon the excellent *vin ordinaire*—which the French merchants could deliver in the Thames, all charges included, at fivepence or sixpence a bottle—is a disgrace to us as a commercial nation. The prohibition—for such it is—has done as much to estrange the two countries as all the battles that they ever fought against each other; and its removal at this time, when a common cause unites them against the disturber of the peace of the world, would add moral force to their efforts, and operate as heavy a blow against the Czar as an additional fleet or army. Experience has amply shown that the abolition of unwise taxation is no ultimate loss to the revenue. What we lose under one item is compensated under another. Two such great and wealthy nations, separated from each other only by a few miles of sea, ought to have traded more and fought less. They would assuredly have done so, had we been commercially as wise in 1789 as we were in 1846. Our own experience has been tardy. France still lags behind us, but her present chief magistrate shows, whenever he can, that he has not studied in vain the recent history of this country. It is not from any adherence to the old principle of Protection that the duties upon French wines are still maintained. The question is one of revenue only; and, notwithstanding the demands which the war is likely to make upon us, the finances of the country are in so buoyant and prosperous a state, that a far more timid Chancellor of the Exchequer than Mr. Gladstone has shown himself to be, might well be induced to give the subject his serious consideration. Even although a temporary loss of revenue might ensue, the experiment would be amply justified, if, upon the eve of war, it cemented the friendship of allies, and led to an extension of commercial intercourse between two of the foremost nations of the earth.

THE Great Fire of London, in 1666, was a double misfortune;—a misfortune that so much loss of property was occasioned;—a still greater misfortune that the rebuilding of the City was left in the hands of short-sighted and incompetent persons. If the citizens of London at that time had had the courage or the common sense to reconstruct their capital upon the admirable plan proposed by Sir Christopher Wren, London at this day might have been the most beautiful city in the world. But the men of 1666 were deaf, blind, and narrow-minded. They rebuilt their narrow and crooked lanes and streets, exactly as they had stood before. They seem to have thought that their city, before its destruction, was a model of elegance, convenience, and propriety; and, therefore, made it their pride to restore it in all its old and familiar, but most objectionable, features. The consequences of their obstinacy beset us at the present day. London has no street wide enough for its traffic; and the enormous increase in the value of property, renders it a matter of extreme difficulty to carry out the smallest and most imperative improvement. Among many other obstructions to the widening of streets, and the creation of new thoroughfares, have been a mass of ugly and inconveniently-placed churches; to hint at the removal of which was long held to be as bad as sacrilege. If these churches had been well attended—if the parishes in which they are situated had been occupied by dwelling-houses—and if their several incumbents administered, each of them, to the spiritual necessities of two or three hundreds of people, it would have been still more hazardous for any sanitary reformer to have expressed an opinion in favour of their removal. But churches without congregations are like nuts without kernels, or purses without money; and, most of the sacred edifices within the ancient limits of the City being in this condition, it has become safe for sanitary reformers and street improvers to advocate openly the expediency of taking them down and replacing them in the roomy suburbs whither their congregations have preceded them. No less a person than the Bishop of London has at length bestirred himself in the matter. His Lordship is in favour of the removal of thirty City churches; and, with his support, there is no fear of any considerable opposition, in or out of Parliament. The Bishop of London takes up the question on religious grounds alone—not thinking it conducive to the temporal credit or the spiritual efficiency of the Church, that, in so many temples for the worship of God, Divine service should be weekly performed to congregations ranging from twenty to fifty persons, while in the outskirts of the metropolis there should be a crying and increasing want of Church accommodation. We trust that the sanitary, as well as the religious, part of the question, will meet with due attention, and that the amenity and convenience of the whole metropolis will be studied. It would be a misfortune if so favourable an opportunity for improvement were thrown away. London not only wants wider thoroughfares, but new ones, and there is no reason why it should not be the most convenient and beautiful as well as the richest and most religious city in Europe. When the Bill necessary for the removal of all these churches shall come in due course before the Legislature, it is to be hoped that means will be taken to promote all the interests involved. The Bishop of London requires coadjutors—not to interfere with his projects for the spiritual improvement of his diocese, but to aid in a kindred spirit in carrying out a good and necessary work—in other departments, early next in importance to that which the Bishop himself has so properly undertaken.

THE COURT.

The Queen's Christmas gifts to the poor were distributed in the Indian school, at Windsor Castle, on Saturday last. The recipients consisted of about 400 poor persons, residing in Windsor and Egham parishes. At ten o'clock the Queen and Prince, accompanied by the Royal children, the Duke of Cambridge, the Marquis of Abercorn, the Earl and Countess Granville, Lady Harriet and Lady Beatrice Hamilton, and attended by the Duke of Devonshire and the Duke of Wellington, left the castle, and proceeded to the gallery of the Indian school, to witness the distribution, which took place under the superintendence of the clergy of Windsor and Egham.

On Sunday, the Queen and Prince, the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, the Princess Alice, the Duke of Kent, and the Duke of Cambridge, the ladies and gentlemen of the Court, and the domestic household, attended Divine service in the private chapel of the Castle. The Marquis of Abercorn and the Ladies Harriet and Beatrice Hamilton were also at the service. The Hon. and Rev. G. Wellesley officiated.

On Monday morning, Prince Albert, with the Prince of Wales, Prince Alfred, and the Duke of Cambridge, skated on the ice in the Home-park. Her Majesty was present.

On Tuesday the Queen and Prince, attended by the Viscountess Jocelyn, Colonel Bouverie, and Lieut. Colonel F. Seymour, left Windsor at ten o'clock, for London, by a special train of the Great Western Railway. The Royal party drove from Paddington to the exhibition of the Photographic Society, in Suffolk-street. Her Majesty and his Royal Highness also visited the Duchess of Gloucester, and the Queen returned to the railway station, and arrived at Windsor at ten minutes before two o'clock. The Prince proceeded from Gloucester House to Mr. Baskin's studio, in Newman-street, to inspect his cast for the statue of Lord Mansfield. His Royal Highness afterwards honored Mr. Bell's studio, at Kensington, with a visit, to see his cast for the statue of Sir Robert Walpole, both of which are about to be executed for the House of Parliament. The Prince called at Buckingham Palace, and returned to Windsor at a quarter past four o'clock.

On Thursday Prince Albert drove her Majesty out in a sledge, towards Staines. The Princesses followed in another sledge.

The office of Lord High Steward of her Majesty's Household, filled, since the accession of the Earl of Aberdeen to the Premiership, by his Grace the Duke of Norfolk, has been resigned by that nobleman. The desire of the noble Duke to be relieved from official duty has been no secret for some time past. The post has been offered to, and accepted by, the Earl Spencer, K.G.

The Lord Chancellor will receive the Judges, Queen's Counsel, &c., on Wednesday next, the first day of Hilary Term, at his Lordship's residence in Upper Brook-street, at twelve o'clock.

The Marquis of Abercorn and the Ladies Hamilton arrived at Chesterfield House, on Tuesday, from visiting her Majesty at Windsor Castle. The Marchioness of Abercorn and the younger branches of the family are staying at St. Leonard's-on-Sea.

The Earl of Eglinton is expected to arrive next week at his mansion in St. James's-square, from Eglinton Castle. In consequence of the death of his lamented Countess, the noble Earl is breaking up his establishment.

Viscount Palmerston came to town on Tuesday morning, to attend the Cabinet Council, from his seat, Broadlands, Hants, and returned to the country as soon as the Council rose.

Lord and Lady John Russell have returned to Pembroke Lodge, Richmond, from visiting her Majesty, at Windsor Castle.

CHURCH, UNIVERSITIES, &c.

PROROGATION OF CONVOCATION.—The Convocation of the Prelates and Clergy of the Province of Canterbury was further prorogued, on Wednesday, pursuant to the Royal writ, to Wednesday, the 1st day of February next. The Archbishop of Canterbury, attended by the Registrar of the Province, entered the Jerusalem Chamber shortly after twelve o'clock, when, the Royal writ having been read by the Registrar, his Grace signed the schedule of prorogation.

THE NEW BISHOP OF LIMERICK.—The consecration of the Bishop of Limerick (Dr. Henry Griffin) took place on Saturday last, in Trinity College Chapel. The consecrating Bishops were the Archbishop of Dublin and the Bishops of Cork and Derry.

REVENUE OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.—It is stated in the Census report of religious worship, just issued, that the income of the Church of England in 1851, was upwards of £5,000,000 per annum.

PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.—*Rectories:* The Rev. F. J. Walker to Finmere, Oxfordshire; Rev. W. Jephson to Hinton Waldust, Berkshire; Rev. J. Prior to Papplewick, near Nottingham; Rev. A. P. Cust to Cheddington, near Aylesbury; Rev. Dr. Rowley to Willey, Salop; Rev. R. C. Jenkins to Lymington, near Canterbury; Rev. H. J. Sawyer, M.A., to Sunningwell, near Abingdon; Rev. Dr. Hawtre, Provost of Eton College, to Farnham Royal, Bucks; Rev. R. W. Pearce, B.A., to Gaywood, Lynn Regis; Rev. J. T. Walters to Stradishall, near Newmarket. *Vicarages:* The Rev. G. Hainey, M.A., to Nindfield, Sussex; Rev. W. H. Hicks to Walton, Norfolk; Rev. W. J. Penwell to Horley, near Banbury; Incumbency: Rev. J. Griffiths to Trinity Church, Brighton. *Metropolitan Curacies:* The Rev. J. W. Hammond to St. Martin's-in-the-Fields; Rev. S. G. Fraser to Grosvenor Chapel; Rev. C. M. Church to Curzon Chapel, May-fair; Rev. R. W. Bush to St. Mary's-bow; Rev. F. Macintyre to St. Dunstan's-in-the-West; and the Rev. W. H. Poy to St. Simon Zelotes, Bethnal-green.

THE REVENUE.

An Abstract of the Net Produce of the Revenue of Great Britain, in the Year and Quarter ended 5th Jan., 1854, showing the Increase or Decrease thereof.

	Year ended 5th Jan., 1854.	Quarter ended 5th Jan., 1854.	Year ended Jan. 5, 1853.	Quarter ended Jan. 5, 1853.
	Income.	Expenditure.	Income.	Expenditure.
Customs	£ 18,000,000	£ 4,444,478	£ 282,441	£ ..
Excise	£ 1,700,000	£ 4,425,476	£ 274,102	£ ..
Stamps	£ 2,827,000	£ 1,400,000	£ 215,755	£ ..
Taxes	£ 3,577,843	£ 1,400,000	£ 200,000	£ ..
Property-tax ..	£ 6,000,000	£ 414,888	£ 50,000	£ ..
Post-office ..	£ 1,000,000	£ 35,000	£ 18,000	£ ..
Crown Lands ..	£ 200,000	£ 80,000	£ 142,858	£ ..
Miscellaneous ..	£ 200,000	£ 26,121	£ 17,000	£ ..
Total Ordinary Revenue ..	£ 48,802,843	£ 11,008,881	£ 602,107	£ 200,000
Imprint and other Moneys ..	£ 604,000	£ 270,477	£ 245,000	£ ..
Repayments of Advances ..	£ 1,000,000	£ 301,702	£ 300,000	£ ..
Total	£ 50,406,843	£ 12,580,060	£ 1,147,107	£ 200,000
Deduct De-crease	£ ..	£ ..	£ 200,000	£ ..
Increase on the Year	£ ..	£ ..	£ 1,147,107	£ ..

CABINET COUNCIL.—A Cabinet Council was held on Tuesday afternoon, at the Foreign Office, Downing-street. The Ministers present were—the Earl of Aberdeen, Lord John Russell, the Lord Chancellor, Earl Granville, the Duke of Argyll, the Marquis of Lansdowne, Viscount Palmerston, the Earl of Clarendon, the Duke of Newcastle, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir James Graham, Sir Charles Wood, the Right Hon. Sidney Herbert, and Sir William Molesworth. The Council sat three hours and a half. A second Cabinet Council was held on Thursday, which lasted four hours.

THE HOUSE GUARDS.—We are assured, on what we believe to be good authority, that Lord Hardinge yesterday gave in his resignation as Commander-in-Chief of the army; that his Lordship is to be succeeded by Lord Raglan; and that General Brown will resume his former appointment as Adjutant-General. *Messrs. Post, Thursday.* [We are enabled to state that the resignations and changes in the House Guards, reported by a morning contemporary, are quite unfounded.—*Globe.*]

HOSPITAL OF ST. CROSS, WINCHESTER.—The Master of this Hospital—Francis North, Earl of Guildford—has received the two widows of Alfred and St. Mary's, worth (consolidation of their houses, glebe, and fees) about £4000 per annum. His Lordship, however, holds for the present his Mastership of St. Cross's Hospital.

EFFECTS OF THE WEATHER.—In consequence of the non-arrival of many of the mails on Wednesday, no less than 200 letters were undelivered, many evening, at the Bank of England, and the same was the case at many private bankers. But for the use of the electric telegraph, the instances would have been numerous.

DEATH OF LORD PLUNKET.—The ex-Chancellor of Ireland died on Wednesday morning, at his seat in the county of Wicklow, at the age of ninety.

POSTSCRIPT.

FRANCE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

PARIS, Thursday.

The intense severity of the weather, if productive of good to the country in the way of destroying the blights and insects that have for the last two or three years proved so ruinous to the grape and other crops, is in the mean time extremely trying in various ways, and adds much to sickness, misery, and the stagnation of commerce. The streets of Paris are in a condition—between frost, snow, ice, thaw and mud—that renders circulation equally difficult, and even dangerous, on foot or in carriages: colds, influenza, inflammation of the chest, and cholerae abound; several grave accidents have occurred through the imprudence of skaters and sliders, on the Seine; and altogether the *jour de l'an* has not passed brilliantly.

Among other effects of the rigour of the season, it is a subject of remark, that a number of the Senators—who are, for the most part, somewhat advanced in years—find it absolutely necessary, for the preservation of their healths, to seek a milder climate; and, with the commencement of the winter, with its severities, its gaieties, and the fatigues the necessity of display and hospitality would entail upon them, to remove themselves and their *détachés* to a softer clime, where such dangerous duties are not entailed upon them.

A very large body of the inhabitants of Paris—the domestic servants—are up in arms from a proceeding that has been adopted by the Government. The retailers of provisions have been visited by the commissaries of their quarters, and received intimations that it would be well for them, instead of giving their usual *étrennes* to the servants of their customers, to deliver them into the hands of the said commissaries, to be distributed to the poor. Placards to the same effect, are posted in all quarters. Had this measure been, as there was some idea of its being, adopted by the tradesmen themselves, we venture to say that few complaints would have been made; but, as it is—if not in form, at least in fact—an almost compulsory measure of authority, the sentiments it inspires are those of anything but satisfaction among both classes concerned in it; and we doubt if the poor will be much benefited by the scanty alms thus unwillingly bestowed.

Much and sincere regret has been felt both in public and private circles, from the sudden death of M. Visconti, the architect of the Emperor, from apoplexy. M. Visconti had just been named one of the members of the Commission under the Prince Napoleon, for the *Exposition Universelle* of 1855. It was under his direction that the Church of the Invalides, with the tomb of Napoleon, has been arranged in its present condition; and the extension of the buildings of the Louvre now in progress, is the last monument of his taste and talent.

We learn that M. de Lamartine has sold his monthly production, "*La Civilisateur*," to MM. Mirès et Milhaud, for 100,000 francs, ready money, and 20,000 francs a year; we believe that M. de Lamartine's uncertain health, rendering the fatigues of the whole of the conduct of this publication too severe for him, is the cause of this arrangement.

A correspondent of the *Indépendance Belge* signals the discovery of a new talent in Napoleon I., as displayed in a book existing in French literature, entitled, "*Bonapartiana*;" ou, *la Fleur des Bons Mots de l'Empereur Napoléon Ier.*"

The celebrated romancer and poet, Comte Alfred de Vigny, who, for nearly ten years, has retired almost completely from the ranks of the literature of the day, has, it appears, just completed the second volume of a work, of which the first excited so much attention and admiration at the time of its appearance and since—"Stello; ou, la Première Consultation du Docteur Noir." It is expected shortly to be published. Another most interesting and valuable work, the eleventh volume of the biographical and bibliographical dictionary, "*La France Littéraire*," of M. Quérard, has just been brought out. Its peculiar interest lies in its being an *exposé* of the real names and conditions of the "*écrivains pseudonymes et autres mystificateurs*" of French literature during the last four centuries.

Fresh demolitions and fresh alterations are planned to take place in the course of the year in Paris. The Rue de Strasbourg is in active progress in the midst of one of those quarters, where, in the six-storied houses, men, women, and children are densely crowded; round the Théâtre Français is to be cleared a vast square, which will permit carriages to be stationed and to circulate freely; and the Boulevard Malesherbes, so often projected, and as often abandoned, is to be finally carried out from the Madeleine to the Park of Monceaux—an enormous undertaking, which will carry away a whole series of streets and buildings in the midst of one of the best-inhabited quarters of Paris. A new street between the Rue de Rivoli and the Boulevard des Italiens is to be entitled Rue de l'Impératrice.

Two new clubs, of importance, are being founded, and are shortly to be opened. The one, the Circle Napoléon, at the Hôtel d'Osmond, is under the special patronage of Louis Napoleon, who is to be Honorary President; the actual President, to be named by him, will, it is believed, be his cousin, the Prince Napoleon. The second club is the Circle des Chemins de Fer, to be built on the space lately occupied by the Bains Chinois. M. de Rothschild is, we hear, to be the President of this *réunion*.

A robbery of jewels, belonging to the Princess Galitzin, has just taken place in a furnished *appartement* temporarily occupied by her in the rue Jean Goujon, Champs Elysées. The jewels—consisting of diamonds and emeralds, of immense value—were, by some unaccountable carelessness, left behind in a drawer in the apartment when the Princess moved to another residence. On sending to seek them, they had, as may well be supposed, disappeared; and as yet no trace of the robber has been discovered.

A sale of valuable autographs, almost exclusively political, took place, a few days since, and attracted much attention and interest. The greater number were of the period of the Revolution, and the Empire, and traced by the hands of the most conspicuous men of those times.

At the theatres there is still little of novelty. "*La Pierre de touche*," at the Française, by MM. Jules Sandeau and Emile Augier, has an immense and merited success. "*L'Aventurière*" of the latter writer is to be *repris* for Mdlle. Judith. The Opéra Comique has given a new opera in one act, "*Les Papillotes de M. Benoist*,"—a work with some pretty music in it, but mediocre as a whole. This theatre is preparing "*L'Etoile du Nord*" (a production from which great things are expected), for the end of the month.

Alexandre Dumas is really pursued by a *guignon*, which would utterly destroy the confidence of any man but Alexandre Dumas. We are told (we pretend not to assert the statement as a fact) that *la Censure* has forbidden the appearance of a piece of his, entitled "*Olympe de Clèves*" at the Vaudeville. The second volume of the "*Mémoires d'un Bourgeois de Paris*," by M. Véron, has appeared. It is said to be more interesting than the first, and contains some most remarkable letters from the Duchesse d'Angoulême, "*l'homme de la famille*," which we regret our limits will not permit us to quote. An account of the assassination of the Duc de Berri, among a series of most singular and but little-known conspiracies; a biography of M. Thiers; a highly interesting chapter on the three epochs of the Restoration, containing most valuable documents hitherto unedited; and an account of M. le Duc de Polignac, and the *ordonnances*, form some of the contents of this volume. Two new illustrated works, "*Les Métamorphoses du Jour*," of Grandville, and "*Les Œuvres Nouvelles de Gavarni*,"—Gavarni, "*le Balzac du Crayon*,"—are highly worthy of notice. Nothing can be more admirable or more characteristic than these designs.

The formal answer of the Emperor of Russia to the Vienna propositions had not been received at Paris on Wednesday; but few persons venture to hope that it will be anything but a peremptory refusal. The decision of the Emperor appears already to be known; having turned every day to account for his vast preparations in all parts of the empire, it is not likely that he will allow so much cost and trouble to go for nothing. A private letter from St. Petersburg, dated the 25th, contains some interesting details. The first paragraph says:—

There reigns here at this moment, in all branches of the public service, a movement and activity of which there has been no example since the preparations of the army in 1812. On seeing how the minds and the efforts of the entire nation are turned towards war, one would say that Russia thinks herself on the eve of a new invasion. Each day numerous *feldtines* (couriers) leave for every part of the empire to hasten on the armaments. Agents are sent about everywhere to wake up the fanaticism and ferocity of the orthodox population, and to rouse from the very depths of Asia the hordes of Kirghese, Mongols, and Tartars, and precipitate them on the Indus, with the hope of the sack and pillage of the British Presidencies.

In the official circles of Paris it is believed that war is inevitable. The decision of the Emperor Nicholas with respect to the Vienna proposition was known, though not officially. His Majesty's remark when he heard of his being asked to send an Envoy to the Conference was, that he would never send any General of his to sign his own condemnation—his own dishonour.

A communication has been addressed by the French Government to the Cabinet of St. Petersburg on the general question of the East, and in particular with reference to the Black Sea. It consists of an autograph letter from the Emperor Louis Napoleon to the Czar, and it demands that the Euxine shall no longer be exclusively Russian, but that it shall be thrown open to all the nations of Europe. How the Emperor Nicholas is likely to receive such a demand it is scarcely necessary to say.

It is not doubted that a *corps d'armée* will be despatched from France at the proper time to Turkey. It is said that two considerable camps will be formed: one, the most important, at Adrianople; and the other, probably, close to Constantinople: the former to be under the command of General Canrobert; the other under the immediate direction of the Minister of War, who will, in fact, command the whole expeditionary army. The combined fleets will be commanded by Admiral Dundas. Candia will probably be the general dépôt of the army.

In the midst of preparations for what, if it break out, must be a war of giants, the negotiations of the Fusionist party are, according to the reports of some of its members, going on most satisfactorily. The Count de Chambord, we are again assured, is positively going to England in the month of March next; and a meeting of the whole of the members of the Bourbon family, including the Duchess of Orleans, who by that time is to be gained over, will take place at Claremont; a complete reconciliation will be effected, and plans for the future arranged. Their hopes are founded, they say, on some of the many chances of a general war; and on the hope, not yet abandoned, of the separation of England, which would be of immense service to them, as to the Emperor Nicholas. In the meantime there are symptoms of considerable activity in the departments, where the scarcity and consequent dearth of provisions is a real cause of discontent.

Some fresh arrangements have been made by the French Government, by which telegraphic messages may be despatched during the night from Paris, Lyons, Marseilles, and Bordeaux, to Brussels, Berlin, Vienna, and Trieste; but England is not included in the list of countries so favoured. We hope, however, that equal facilities will be afforded to this kingdom as soon as the necessary measures can be adopted for that purpose.

The Levée at the Tuilleries on Monday evening was the most brilliant since the Restoration. There were 2000 persons present, belonging to all nations, and in every variety of the richest costume. The train of the Empress, which was upwards of ten feet in length, was supported by two of her Majesty's suite, most elegantly attired.

Her Majesties have ordered from the embroidery manufactory at Nancy a superb dress, which, after it has figured at the Grand Exhibition of 1855, is to be offered to the Empress of Austria. Nothing is to be spared in perfecting this work, so as to render the present worthy of the Exhibition and of the industry of France.

Dr. Bowring had a private audience of the Emperor on Tuesday, at the Tuilleries. He was to leave Paris for London on the following day.

TURKEY.

The *Cassel Gazette* contains the following from Bucharest of the 23rd ult.:

The following are the particulars of the affair at Matchin. On the 11th two Russian gun-boats had proceeded from Braila to Matchin, and the day after three others and two steamers followed. Two of the boats were Wallachian. The object of this expedition, which was under the command of General Engelhardt, was to destroy the Turkish battery of Matchin. The cannonade was exceedingly sharp, and continued to the evening of the 13th. A steamer then returned to Braila. On the 14th the combat recommenced. Two Russian battalions succeeded in gaining the right bank, but they were obliged to retreat, after having destroyed two Turkish batteries. It is said that General Engelhardt was wounded in the head. For some days back the Russians have been occupying the Wallachian side in front of Braila. An account from Braila states that the Russians had succeeded in destroying the land batteries of the Turks. No one dares to leave Braila. At present it is said that the army will set out on the 24th from Braila and Galatz to cross the Danube. It is not true that Matchin has been burnt, nor is it true that the Russians crossed the Danube on the 18th at four points. In spite of the dreadful state of the roads, the army is in movement.

It is said that since the massacre at Sinope no Russian vessel has been seen in the Black Sea, they having taken refuge in Sebastopol, which they seemed very disinclined to quit upon any account whatever. The united fleets were still in the Bosphorus on the 25th ult.

Advices from Malta state that his Excellency the Governor had received orders from his Government to make the necessary arrangements at the arsenal for the establishment of a reserve of artillery and ammunition about to be sent forthwith from England.

PERFIA.

Letters from Persia, dated the 30th of November, announce that the Persian Government had, in consequence of the energy displayed by the English Chargé d'Affaires, withdrawn from its warlike attitude towards England, and given our Minister every assurance of its pacific intentions; so that the intrigues of Russia in that quarter, for the present, at least, have been unsuccessful.

The British mission was on the eve of quitting the capital, but the Shah, who is afraid to proceed to extremities on the subject, will do his utmost to prevent it. The official announcement sent abroad by his Majesty, regarding the cessation of diplomatic relations with the British representative, is very moderately worded, and even goes so far as to state "that the Shah, although grossly insulted by Mr. Thompson, will do all in his power to prevent the mission leaving Teheran until a Persian Ambassador be sent to England to explain the matter to the British Government."

All accounts from Teheran confirm the important fact that the Turkish Ambassador was on the worst terms with the Divan, on account of the determination of the latter to organise and send two armies to the frontiers of Kirmanshab and Avajik, and to proceed immediately to Bagdad. The motive which has induced Persia to join Russia is money; indeed, neither the Shah nor his crafty Ministers could find in their hearts to turn away from the sight of gold. The lower classes would have preferred joining the Turks against Russia; but they are counteracted by the officials, who calculate on appropriating to themselves a large portion of the money from St. Petersburg.

By all accounts four armies are being formed. The first, to consist of 35,000 or 40,000 men, is to be commanded by Sirdar Aziz Kouli Khan, the Commander-in-chief of the Shah's army, and will be directed against Erzeroum. The second, of 20,000 men, under the command of the chief of the Shah's body guard, will be marched against Bagdad. The third, of 8,000 men, under the command of Sirdar Nasir Khan, will be sent into Khorassan. The fourth, of 6,000 men, under the orders of Khan Baba Khan, the present Governor of Yazd and Kirman, will be sent in the direction of Bender Bon-hire, in the Persian Gulf. Excluding Aziz Khan, the above officers do not enjoy the best reputation as commanders, and it is said that Russian general officers will be attached to each army, and that they will take the native officers under their tutelage.

Letters from Tabreez state that an embassy, similar to that of Prince Menschikoff to Constantinople, was expected there daily. It is composed of M. Khanikoff, of the *chancellerie diplomatique*; at Tiflis; of a General, a Colonel, a Lieutenant-Colonel, a Captain of Cossacks, half a dozen Lieutenants, and a doctor—fourteen or fifteen in all. It is supposed to be a special mission to Teheran, and that it will proceed to Afghanistan.

About 1000 families from the Erivan territory, discontented with Russian dominion, had abandoned their homes and villages, and had gone over to Mahomed Redhid Pacha, the Turkish frontier commander.

Letters had reached Tabreez from Tiflis, announcing that Schamyl had defeated the Russians.

SPAIN.

The Generals Sauzet and Lersundi have been dismissed from the Captain-Generals of Galicia and Andalusia.

UNITED STATES.

The mail steam-ship *Atlantic* arrived in the Mersey on Thursday afternoon, with the usual mails from the United States and British North America. The *Atlantic* sailed from New York on the 24th inst. Owing to the interruptions of railway communication, we have not yet received her news.

THE WEST INDIES AND MEXICO.

By the steam-ship *Magdalena*, we have news from La Guayra to the 22nd ult., from Vera Cruz to December 5, and from other places in that hemisphere to intermediate dates. There is no political news of any importance, and the commercial reports are more hopeful. Cholera had made its appearance at Nevis, where forty cases had occurred, ten of which proved fatal. At Trinidad yellow fever had disappeared. Demerara also was reported healthy.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

RESULTS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS, TAKEN DURING THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY, JAN. 5.

Month and Day.	Corrected Reading of Barometer at 9 A.M.	Thermometer.		Mean Temperature of the Day.	Departure of Temperature from Average.	Degree of Humidity.	Direction of Wind.	Moisture of Snow.
		Highest.	Lowest.					
Dec. 30	29.648	39.1	23.0	32.1	— 4.9	80	N.W.	Inches 0.00
" 31	29.677	36.9	24.5	29.9	— 6.8	78	W.	0.02
Jan. 1	29.685	31.5	21.2	26.2	— 10.9	90	N.	0.00
" 2	29.298	33.2	25.0	28.4	— 7.9	89	S.W. & N.E.	0.00
" 3	29.316	33.5	13.0	23.5	— 12.5	97	N.E.	0.00
" 4	28.941	33.0	22.0	31.3	— 4.3	93	N.E.	0.00
" 5	28.883	34.7	29.5	32.1	— 3.4	97	W.S.W.	0.04

Note.—The sign — denotes below the average. The numbers in the seventh column are calculated on the supposition that the saturation of the air is represented by 100.

The reading of the Barometer decreased from 29.65 inches at the beginning of the week to 29.89 by the afternoon of December 30th; increased to 29.63 inches by the morning of the 31st; decreased to 29.23 inches by the afternoon of January 2; increased to 29.31 inches by the morning of the 3rd; and decreased to 28.90 inches by the end of the week. The mean for the week at the height of 82 feet above the level of the sea, was 29.295 inches.

The reading of the Thermometer very early in the morning of December 30, was 22°; it then turned to increase, and reached the maximum for the week, 39.1°, at 4h. p.m.; decreased to 36° by 3h. p.m.; it then turned to decrease, and was 21.2° on the morning of January 1, during which day the temperature never reached 32°—its highest point was 31.5°. On the 2nd, the extremes were 33.2° and 25.0°. It was painfully cold, and the temperature declined till 1h. a.m. on the 3rd, when it was 14°; and still further declined to 13°, which is the lowest point yet reached. At 8h. a.m. it rose to 14°; at 9h. a.m., to 19°; and reached 33.5° during the day. From this time to the end of the week the temperature, both night and day, has been between 29.4° and 34.7°.

The mean temperature of the week was 29.1°, which is 7.4° below the average of the same week in thirty-eight years. The mean temperature of the week ending January 5, in 1832, was 29.4°, and in 1821, was 27.2°, so that the temperature of the last week was lower than any corresponding week since the year 1821.

The range of temperature during the week was 26.1°, being the difference between the highest reading on December 30, and the lowest, on January 3.

The mean daily range of temperature during the week was 11.4°. The greatest was 20.4°, on January 3, and the least 4°, on the 4th.

Snow fell to the depth of a foot on the level during the night common to the 3rd and 4th, and to one inch on the following night, producing about seven-tenths of an inch of water.

This severe period set in on November 9; on the day preceding the temperature was considerably above the average; on November 9, it was below the average, and has continued so with very few exceptions to the present time. The mean temperature of the period from November 9 to January 5, has been 35.5°; that of the corresponding period ending January 5, 1830, was 34.9°; and that in the year 1816, was 35.2°, so that with one exception the weather has been colder than any since the memorable year 1814, when the Thames was frozen over.

The inclemency of the weather since the middle of November has caused a greatly increased mortality. From the following article, it must be seen that the number of deaths registered in the metropolitan districts during the last week was 380 above the estimated average of the same week in the preceding ten years. The number of deaths registered to the week attained to the large number of 1656; of these some are Coroners' returns, which are always included at the end of every quarter. Allowing for these, the catalogue of mortality shows to a painful extent the fatal effects of the severity of the weather.

For the month of December, the mean reading of the barometer at the level of the sea was 29.969 inches.

The highest temperature during the month was 49°, on the 1st; and the lowest was 20°, on the 29th. The range of temperature during the month was therefore 29°. The mean of all the highest temperatures by day was 39.4°; and of all the lowest by night was 30°. The mean daily range of temperature during the month was, therefore, 9.4°.

The mean temperature of the month was 34.4°, being below the average of thirty-eight Decembers by 5.1°, and the coldest December since the year 1846, when its mean temperature was 32.7°. In 1840 it was 32.8°; in 1829 it was 32.9°; and in 1814 it was 32°.

The mean temperature of evaporation was 33.2°.

The mean temperature of the dew point was 31.3°.

The mean degree of humidity of the air was 90°, complete saturation being represented by 100°.

The fall of rain during the month was six-tenths of an inch.

Lewisham, 6th January, 1854. JAMES GLAISIER.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—The births of 1566 children were registered in the week ending December 31: of these, 791 were boys, and 775 were girls. The averages of the same eight weeks in the preceding eight years were 655 boys, and 643 girls. The deaths registered within the week were 1656. This high number exceeds the estimated average by 380, and is chiefly caused by the severity of the weather.

THE LONDON DOCKS.—The new building at the entrance of the London Docks, which is being erected by direction of the Government for the accommodation of the Customs department, is nearly finished, and it is expected will shortly be ready for occupation. It is intended to devote the new building entirely to the wine and spirit delivery department of the Customs, which forms so large and important a feature in the vast business transacted at this establishment.

WEIGH YOUR SOVEREIGNS.—It was stated on Tuesday morning at the Central Criminal Court, that there are a great number of light sovereigns in circulation. They were originally good coin, made at the Mint, but have undergone a process with a machine or lathe, so that about eleven or twelve grains of gold are abstracted, which reduces them in value from three to four shillings, and the only way to detect the fraud is by weighing the sovereigns.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—A deputation, consisting of Dr. Babington, president, Dr. McWilliam, and Mr. Tucker, hon. secs. of the Epidemiological Society, had an interview with the Earl of Aberdeen, on the 2nd December, at his official residence, Downing-street.

CHRISTMAS IN MADRID.

THE Engraving upon the next page presents an interesting picture of an important locality of Madrid, upon the day of Christmas-eve; and especially illustrates the extensive preparation made in the Spanish capital for the celebration of the festive season.

The scene is the Great Square, in every corner of which are various packages—as sacks, boxes, and baskets; and lambs, turkeys, and other articles of good cheer—where the confusion and crowding are insupportable. The number of "*Nacimientos*" (figures representing the birth of Christ) and images of every description is infinite, as well as rattles, back-scratchers, and other instruments of amusement. The place becomes a Babel, where a thousand different languages are spoken. On one side are enormous pyramids of pomegranates of Andalusia, Valencia oranges, Arragonese apples; opposite are sellers of the walnuts and chestnuts of Galicia, grapes, and Malaga sweet potatoes. In another corner rabbits and hares are strewn upon the ground. Here also are castles of "*pistache*," and tables covered with almond cakes, songs of the sepulchre, and Castilian biscuits. Further on are interminable columns of sweetmeat boxes, flanked with strong walls of tambourines, drums, pipes, &c. In the centre are herds of turkeys of Castell, and capons of Biscay; and the "*virtuous*" pullets of Paeccaral.

The vast assemblage, seen beneath a bright sun, and clear blue sky, has a very animated appearance. The costumes are not the least attractive characteristics.



OF ST. JACQUES LA BOUCHERIE.

IMPROVEMENTS IN PARIS.—EXTENSION OF THE RUE DE RIVOLI.—(SEE PAGE 17)



THE GREAT SQUARE IN MADRID, ON CHRISTMAS-EVE.—(SEE PRECEDING PAGE.)

SPORTS ON THE ICE.—CURLING IN SCOTLAND.



MEDAL MATCH OF THE FINGASK CURLING CLUB.

EVERYBODY who knows anything of Scottish out-door sports has heard of the game of Curling; but, as few Englishmen are in the habit of visiting the "land of the mountain and the flood" in winter, and as no description, however elaborate, can give a correct knowledge of the exhilarating game, the only way in which it can be presented to the reader who has never seen it is, by depicting the game in progress. In 1851 and 1852 the winters were so mild that there was little or no ice; and, therefore, the lovers of this favourite sport had no opportunity of enjoying themselves.

In February and March, last year, there were several short periods of frost, which were busily improved by the numerous curling clubs throughout Scotland. A Correspondent has favoured us with a pair of Illustrations of this fine sport. One of these scenes is the "Fingask Curling Club Medal-day, 17th February."

On occasions of this kind, each member of a club who competes for the medal, which is given by the patron or patroness of his club, plays, in turn, a variety of points in the game, which are defined in the "Annual" of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, whose rules are bind-

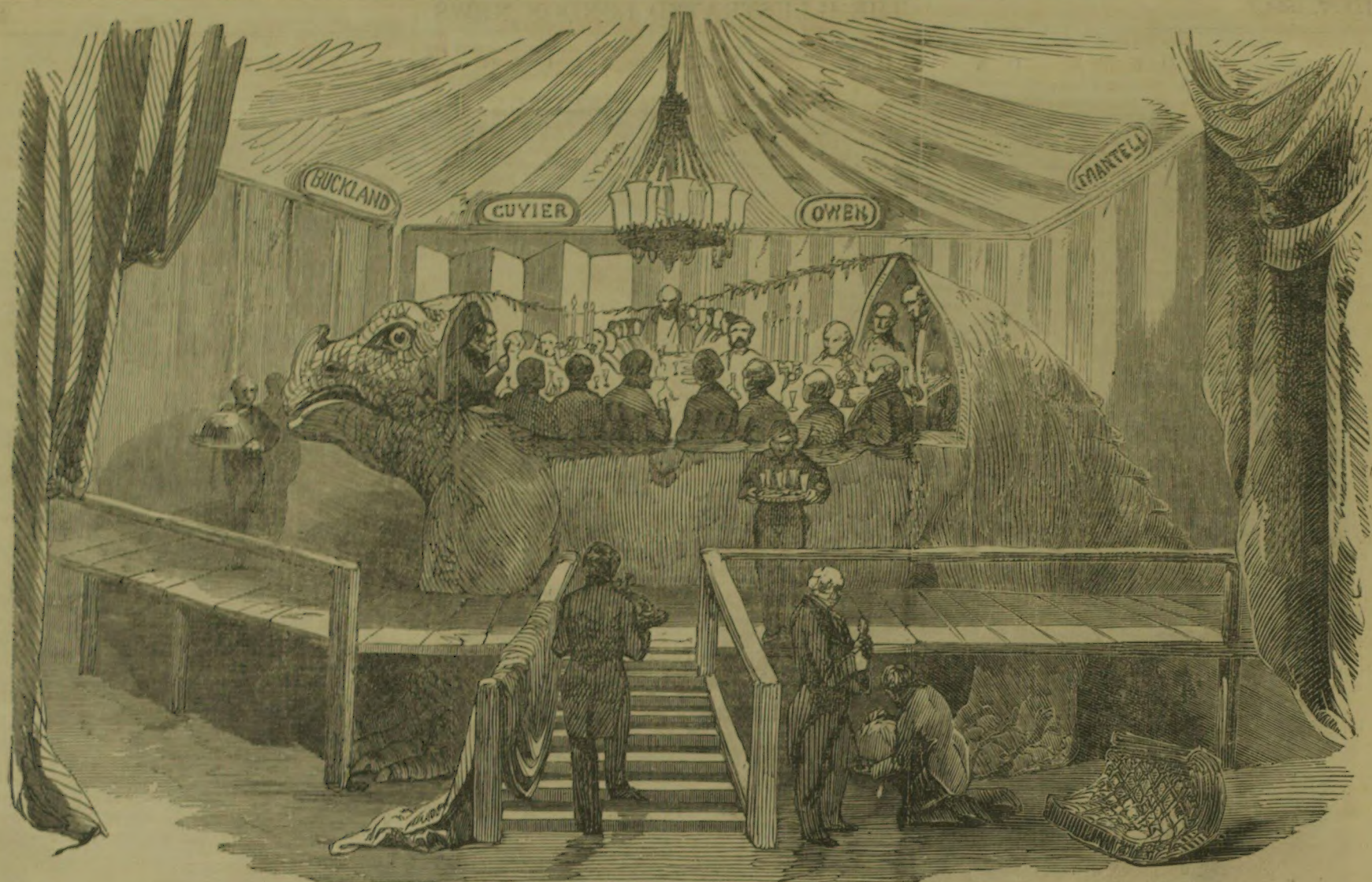
ing among all curling associations. In order to avoid delay, there are generally two rinks marked off on the ice; and each player takes, first, the one rink down with his pair of curling stones, and immediately returns on the other rink. Thus, in the Sketch, the principal figure to the left, who is standing on an iron cramp, is attempting to achieve one of the points of the game which is called "chip the winner;" the method of which is attempted to be shown in the rink to the right when the object of the player (who is out of sight), is to pass with his own stone, another half guarding the one at the tee (the point aimed at), and displace the latter. In ordinary matches at curling there are two sides formed, generally consisting of four players on each side, when the game is contested in turn by players from the rival parties. The brooms, broom-cows, or besoms, are then busily in operation, as each is bent on keeping the ice favourable to his own party's progress in the game; but in this instance it is "every man to his own hand," and no brooming is allowed. The eye and the hand must work steadily together to ensure success. Markers are placed at each rink, who note the successful shots; and the winner of the greatest number is victor of the day, and medal-holder.

The much-respected President of the Fingask Curling Club is Sir Peter Murray Threipland, Bart., of Fingask; and the medal which is competed for annually is the gift of his mother, Lady Murray Threipland, who is patroness of the club. The Curling-lodge, or *Scottie* "bothie," adjoining the pond, is used as a keep for the Curling stones, brooms, cramps, compasses, and apparatus proper to the game, as well as for the preparation on a field-day of the excellent "restoratives" of hot potatoes and whiskey punch. On the Medal Day an excellent *déjeuner à la fourchette* is given by the President to all present. A musician or two are generally in attendance; and strathspeys and reels on the saow keep the lookers-on in ecstacy, and add to the amusement of the scene.

The second View shows a Curling Match, which was played on the 3rd of March last, on Invernytie Loch, near Perth, by his Grace the Duke of Atholl, and eight of his Grace's rinks, against eight rinks from the Carse of Gowrie. In this match, the Duke was victor. This, being more of a landscape Sketch, only shows the players in the game at a little distance. The Hill of Birnam, near Dunkeld, is conspicuous in the distance; and on the right are some farm-houses, the property of



CURLING MATCH ON INVERNYTIE LOCH, NEAR PERTH.



DINNER IN THE IGUANODON MODEL, AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE, SYDENHAM.

Sir W. Stewart, Bart.; with, in the middle ground, an old Scotch fir wood and forester's lodge.

Should the winter of 1854 prove to be as severe a one as has been predicted, and as it threatens to be, we should not be much surprised to see a number of Curling Clubs formed on this side of the Tweed.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE, AT SYDENHAM.

In our Number of last week we gave a whole-page illustration of Mr. B. Waterhouse Hawkins's Model-room, or Studio, at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, where he is constructing his gigantic restorations of the Extinct Inhabitants of the Ancient World. We then had only the opportunity briefly to allude to this novel and great undertaking; and repeated the speculations of enthusiastic discoverers of antediluvian remains which are now, with anatomical severity, being reconstructed and restored to a state of life-like nature by Mr. Waterhouse Hawkins; to whose talents and knowledge this department of the great educational scheme of the Directors of the Crystal Palace Company is now confided; and with how much credit to their judgment was most agreeably exemplified on Saturday evening last (the last day of the year 1853), when Mr. W. Hawkins, with the concurrence of the Directors, invited a number of his scientific friends and supporters to dine with him in the body of one of his largest models, called the Iguanodon, which occupies so conspicuous a place in our illustration of last week. In the mould of this colossal work of art—for as such it must deservedly rank very high—Mr. Hawkins conceived the idea of bringing together those great names whose high position in the science of palaeontology and geology would form the best guarantee for the severe truthfulness of his works; and, at the same time, show to the public the high tone of criticism and knowledge which the Directors of this truly national undertaking require those officers to sustain to whom they confide the carrying out of any important part of their plan which so particularly bears on the education of the people.

To carry out this extraordinary idea, cards were issued at the beginning of last week—and such cards! as startling as the invitation they bore: "Mr. B. Waterhouse Hawkins solicits the honour of Professor Owen's company at dinner, in the Iguanodon, on the 31st of December, 1853, at four p.m." The incredible request was written on the wing of a Pterodactyle, spread before a most graphic etching of the Iguanodon, with his socially-loaded stomach, so practicably and easily filled, as to tempt all to whom it was possible to accept, at such short notice, this singular invitation. Many have to regret the rapidity of executing this novel idea, at a season when almost all have a plurality of engagements. Nevertheless, Mr. Hawkins had one-and-twenty guests around him in the body of the Iguanodon on Saturday last; at the head of whom, most appropriately, and in the head of the gigantic animal, sat Professor Owen, supported by Professor E. Forbes; Mr. Prestwick, the geologist; Mr. Gould, the celebrated ornithologist; and the Directors and officers of the Company.

The dinner, which was luxurious and elegantly served, being ended, the usual routine of loyal toasts were duly given and responded to—allusion being gracefully made by Mr. Francis Fuller, Managing Director, to the great interest evinced and approbation expressed by H.M. the Queen and H.R.H. the Prince, on their recent visit to the extraordinary works by which the company were surrounded.

Professor Owen then took occasion to explain, in his lucid and powerful manner, the means and careful study by which Mr. Hawkins had prepared his models, and had attained his present truthful success; Professor Owen adding that it had been a source of great pleasure to him to aid so important an undertaking, by assisting with his instruction and direction a gentleman who possessed the rarely-united capabilities of an anatomist, a naturalist, and a practical artist, with a docility and eagerness for the truth which ensured Mr. Hawkins's careful restorations the highest point of knowledge which had been attained up to the present period. The learned Professor then briefly commented upon the course of reasoning by which Cuvier, and other comparative anatomists, were enabled to build up the various animals of which but small remains were at first presented to their anxious study; but which, when afterwards increased, served to develop and confirm their confident conceptions—instancing the Megalosaurus, the Iguanodon, and Dinornis as striking examples.

Professor Forbes also bore testimony to the truthful care and study with which these great models were produced by Mr. Hawkins, and which would render them trustworthy lessons to the world at large in a branch of science which had hitherto been found too vast and abstruse to call in the aid of art to illustrate its wonderful truths.

After several appropriate toasts, this agreeable party of philosophers returned to London by rail, evidently well pleased with the modern hospitality of the Iguanodon, whose ancient sides there is no reason to suppose had ever before been shaken with philosophic mirth.

The numbers attending the Museum of Ornamental Art at Marlborough House, during December, were—19,630 persons on the public days, free; 475 persons on the students' days, and admitted at 6d. each; besides the registered students of the classes and schools—an increase of 5,567 over last year.

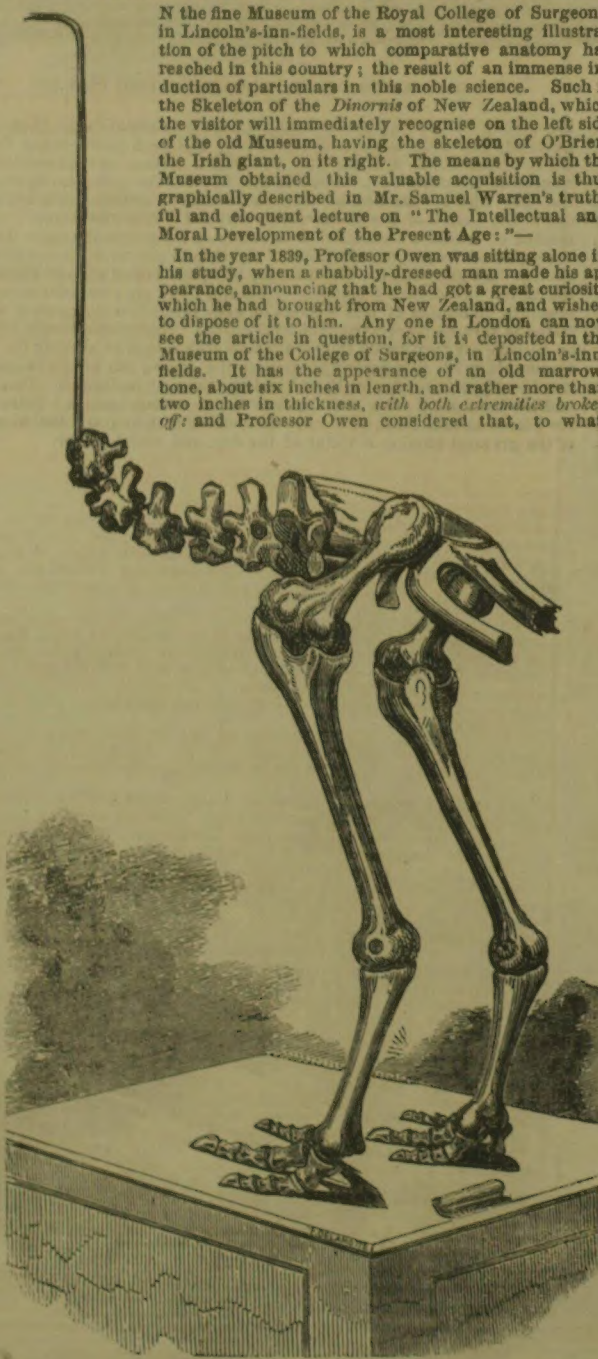
GIGANTIC BIRD OF NEW ZEALAND.

IN the fine Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, in Lincoln's-inn-fields, is a most interesting illustration of the pitch to which comparative anatomy has reached in this country; the result of an immense induction of particulars in this noble science. Such is the Skeleton of the *Dinornis* of New Zealand, which the visitor will immediately recognise on the left side of the old Museum, having the skeleton of O'Brien, the Irish giant, on its right. The means by which the Museum obtained this valuable acquisition is thus graphically described in Mr. Samuel Warren's truthful and eloquent lecture on "The Intellectual and Moral Development of the Present Age:—"

In the year 1839, Professor Owen was sitting alone in his study, when a shabbily-dressed man made his appearance, announcing that he had got a great curiosity which he had brought from New Zealand, and wished to dispose of it to him. Any one in London can now see the article in question, for it is deposited in the Museum of the College of Surgeons, in Lincoln's-inn-fields. It has the appearance of an old marrow-bone, about six inches in length, and rather more than two inches in thickness, with both extremities broken off; and Professor Owen considered that, to what-

least as large as an ostrich, but of a totally different species; and consequently one never before heard of, as an ostrich was by far the biggest bird known. From the difference in the strength of the bone, the ostrich being unable to fly, so must have been unable this unknown bird; and so our anatomist came to the conclusion that this old shapeless bone indicated the former existence, in New Zealand, of some huge bird, at least as great as an ostrich, but of a far heavier and more sluggish kind. Prof. Owen was confident of the validity of his conclusions, but could communicate that confidence to no one else; and, notwithstanding attempts to dissuade him from committing his views to the public, he printed his deductions in the "Transactions of the Zoological Society" for the year 1839, where, fortunately, they remain on record as conclusive evidence of the fact of his having then made this guess, so to speak, in the dark. He caused the bone, however, to be engraved; and having sent a hundred copies of the engraving to New Zealand, in the hopes of their being distributed and leading to interesting results, he patiently waited for three years, viz., till the year 1842, when he received intelligence from Dr. Buckland, at Oxford, that a great box, just arrived from New Zealand, consigned to himself, was on its way, unopened, to Professor Owen; who found it filled with bones, palpably of a bird, one of which was three feet in length, and much more than double the size of any bone in the ostrich! And out of the contents of this box the Professor was positively enabled to articulate almost the entire skeleton of a huge wingless bird, between ten and eleven feet in height, its bony structure in strict conformity with the fragment in question; and that skeleton may be at any time seen at the Museum of the College of Surgeons, towering over, and nearly twice the height of the skeleton of an ostrich; and at its feet is lying the old bone from which alone consummate anatomical science had deduced such an astounding reality: the existence of an enormous extinct creature of the bird kind, in an island where previously no bird had been known to exist larger than a pheasant or a common fowl!

* The paper on which he even sketched the outline of the unknown bird, is now in the hands of an accomplished naturalist in London—Mr. Broderip.



SKELETON OF THE DINORNIS, IN THE MUSEUM OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

ever animal it might have belonged, the fragment must have lain in the earth for centuries. At first he considered this same marrow-bone to have belonged to an ox—at all events, to a quadruped; for the wall or rim of the bone was six times as thick as the bone of any bird, even the ostrich. He compared it with the bones in the skeleton of an ox, a horse, a camel, a tapir, and every quadruped apparently possessing a bone of that size and configuration; but it corresponded with none. On this he very narrowly examined the surface of the bony rim, and at length became satisfied that this monstrous fragment must have belonged to a bird!—to one at

The distinguished artist, Don Rafael Benjumea, has had the honour of a private audience of her Majesty the Queen of Spain, to deliver to her Majesty a splendid historical picture of the presentation of the Princess Royal in the Royal palace after the birth took place. This painting has been executed by the artist, by special command of her Majesty, and has taken the author two years to complete.

SOUTH SEA COMPANY.—On Thursday the half-yearly meeting of this company was held at the South Sea House, when a dividend of 1½ per cent for the half-year was declared. After some discussion, it was resolved that a special meeting should be called, to take into consideration the proposition for obtaining an Act of Parliament to continue the company as a trust company.

ASYLUM FOR FEMALE ORPHANS.—On Thursday the quarterly court of this charity was held at the Asylum, Westminster-road; W. Wild, Esq., in the chair; when it was reported that the school was now quite full, the number of children in the Asylum being 160, and their general health, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, very satisfactory. Since the last meeting, £500, being part of the proceeds of the triennial dinner, at which his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge presided, had been invested in the Funds. The report was adopted, and a special vote of thanks given to his Royal Highness for the great zeal evinced by him in the success of the institution.

ROYAL NATIONAL INSTITUTION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF LIFE FROM SHIPWRECK.—On Thursday last a meeting of the General Committee of this old and valuable institution, was held at the offices, John-street, Adelphi; Mr. Alderman Thompson, chairman of the society, presiding. The gold medal of the institution was voted to the gallant Captain Ludlow, of the American ship *Monmouth*, in admiration of his noble and humane conduct to the crew and passengers of the unfortunate emigrant ship *Meridian*. The silver medal of the Society was also presented to B. Harrington, and W. Waters, first and second coxswains of the *Southwold* life-boat, for their frequent services in saving life in the life-boats of that place. The thanks of the committee, on vellum, were voted to the Rev. Mr. Williams, jun., and to Captain Hedenscht, of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company's Services, for their intrepidity in saving life. A reward of £4 10s. was granted to the crew of the *Boulmer*, new life-boat, for saving the crew, consisting of seven men, of the brig *Robert Nicol*, of Perth. The boat was placed on this station by the Duke of Northumberland, K.G., and liberally presented by him, as president, to the institution. Other rewards having been voted, the committee decided that a public dinner should be held, early in March next, in aid of the funds of the society, and for the purpose of bringing the truly benevolent and national objects of the institution prominently before the public. It was reported that four new life-boats were nearly ready to be sent to the coast. Colonel Tulloch, R.A., as successor to the late Colonel Colquhoun, R.A., having been elected a member of the committee, the proceedings closed.

A FIRE BROKE OUT IN DOCTOR'S-COMMONS at half-past eight on Thursday morning, destroying the extensive manufactory of Messrs. Hodgkinson and Burnside, envelope makers, and the premises of Mr. Coombs, builder—these buildings lying between the Church of St. Benst, and the College of Advocates, both of which narrowly escaped destruction; but the residence of Mr. Pritchard, adjoining the Hall, has met with some partial damage from the heat of the flames. Had the fire happened a few hours earlier, the library of the College (only separated a few feet from the burning premises), and the whole range of the buildings, including the Will-office, might have become a heap of ruins. The damage is estimated at from £3000 to £4000.

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ROBERT.—You have forgotten to send the conditions and solution of the Problem.

F. M.—Moderately good only.

PALMER.—The article on "A New Chess Notation," appearing from its length and the compilation of its symbols, shall be returned if you will be good enough to send an address. It is quite unsuited for publication in a Journal like ours.

H. G.—Pray look again; it is a mate in one move. So obvious, that a player of three days experience could not miss it.

J. K. B.—On the contrary, the variation you omit is the most difficult and beautiful. It is to Kt to 3rd (ch) does not effect the mate at all.

M. G. T. W.—MATCH BETWEEN MR. STANTON AND MR. HARRIS. The correspondence between the representatives of the two parties, which has been sent to us, shows that every possible endeavour has been made to keep Mr. Harris to his engagement, but hitherto without success. We hope to find more next week for the final proposition made by Mr. Stanton with the view of bringing the matter to an issue.

A. CANDIDATE.—In the appointment in question, we believe the preference will be given to native players.

COMO.—We should take Black's game for choice, as he has a Pawn more than you, without any inferiority of situation.

A. CHESS-PLAYER.—The subscription is very trifling; but we do not know exactly the amount. Apply to Dr. Robertson, George-street, Edinburgh.

J. F.—The M.S. shall be returned, if it is not destroyed.

C. F. de J.—St. Petersburg.—A private communication has been forwarded.

ANNIE.—We have taken advantage of the suggestion which you and many others have sent us, and shall endeavour, whenever it is practicable, to give the Chess Column in the Supplement.

A. K. B.—You cannot capture a piece in the act of Castling.

AN ENGLISH VETERAN.—has somewhat mistaken the tenor of our observations. In speaking of the play of Messrs. Harris and L'Herminier, in the late match, we confined ourselves to their skill, relatively one with the other. We are as conscious as our Correspondent can be, that "the game taken as a whole hardly rises to the level of second-class chess;" and we believe with him that "neither of the players, in a set encounter, would have the slightest chance against an opposite of the first rank."

HON. SECRETARY.—Pardon.—You must now send the account of your Clubs to the Chess Player's Chronicle, which promises to give a Monthly List of British Chess-Clubs; the difficulty of obtaining the information compels us to renounce the intention we once had of publishing such a list.

J. B.—Of Bridgeport.—They shall be examined, and the Solutions given.

SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 415. by Arnaldo, Memphis, Mo., Douglas, W. F. I. H., Annie correct.

SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 516. by J. P. M., Derwent, Jack of Shrewsbury, Sorriensis, Jack of Worcester, I. K. B., I. Addison, I. T. Y., Almaric, T. J., of Hanworth; I. P., Medicus, I. H. F., S. P. Q. R., are correct. All others are wrong.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 513.

WHITE. 1. Kt to K 5th (ch) K takes P, or (a) 2. Q to Q 2nd (ch) K takes Kt 3. Kt to K 2nd (ch) K takes P

BLACK. 4. Q to Q 2nd (ch) K takes Kt 5. Q to K 2nd (ch)—Mate.

(a) 1. Kt to K 5th (ch) K takes P 2. Q to Q 2nd (ch) K takes Kt 3. Kt to K 2nd (ch) K takes P

WHITE. 4. Q to Q 2nd (ch) K takes Kt 5. Q to K 2nd (ch)—Mate.

BLACK. 6. Q to Q 2nd (ch) K takes Kt 7. Q to K 2nd (ch)—Mate.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 514.

WHITE. 1. Q to K 7th 2. R to K 8th (ch) K takes Kt

BLACK. 3. Kt to B 3rd R to Q Kt 5th 4. P to K Kt 4th (ch)

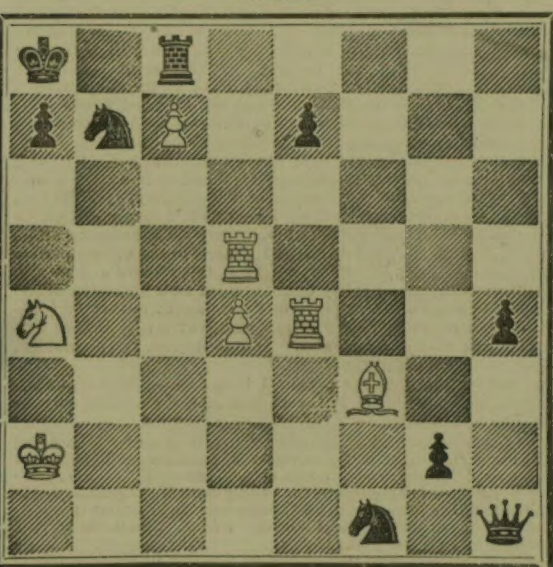
(a) 1. B to Q 5th 2. R to K 8th (ch) K takes Kt 3. Q to K 5th Kt to Kt 5th 4. Q to K 5th—Mate.

Black has other modes of playing, but none which can defer the Mate.

PROBLEM No. 517.

By Mr. H. J. C. ANDREWS.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to move, and mate in four moves.

CHESS IN BELGIUM.

The following well-contested Games were lately played at Brussels, between Mr. VON HEYDEBRAND and Mr. STANTON.

(Algebraic Gambit.)

BLACK (Mr. V. H.) 1. P to K 4th 2. P to K 4th 3. Kt to K 3rd 4. P to K 4th 5. Kt to K 5th 6. Kt takes Kt P 7. Kt to K 2nd 8. P to Q 4th 9. Q to K 3rd 10. Q to K 3rd 11. B to Q 2nd 12. Castles 13. Q Kt to K 2nd 14. B takes P 15. Q takes B 16. Kt to Q 3rd (b) 17. Kt to Q 3rd 18. K B to Q 3rd 19. Q to Q 3rd (c) 20. P to Q 5th 21. Q to her 4th 22. Q to K 3rd (e) 23. Kt to Q 3rd 24. P takes Kt 25. K to Q 2nd

WHITE (Mr. S.) 1. P to K 4th 2. P takes P 3. Kt to K 3rd 4. P to K 4th 5. Kt to K 5th 6. Kt takes Kt P 7. Kt to K 2nd 8. P to Q 4th 9. Q to K 3rd 10. Q to K 3rd 11. B to Q 2nd 12. Castles 13. Q Kt to K 2nd 14. B takes P 15. Q takes B 16. Kt to Q 3rd (b) 17. Kt to Q 3rd 18. K B to Q 3rd 19. Q to Q 3rd (c) 20. P to Q 5th 21. Q to her 4th 22. Q to K 3rd (e) 23. Kt to Q 3rd 24. P takes Kt 25. K to Q 2nd

BLACK (Mr. V. H.) 26. Q R to his 4th 27. K to Q 2nd 28. Q R to his 4th 29. K takes B 30. K to Q 2nd 31. K to Q 2nd 32. B to K 3rd 33. P takes P (in passing) 34. Q takes Kt 35. K to Q 3rd (f) 36. R to Q 4th 37. Q to K 5th (m) 38. Kt to Q 5th 39. Kt to K 4th 40. Q to K 5th 41. Q to K 5th 42. Kt takes Q 43. Q to K 5th (ch) 44. Q to K 7th 45. K to Q 2nd (o) 46. Q to K 7th 47. Q takes K P

WHITE (Mr. S.) 1. P to K 4th 2. P takes P 3. Kt to K 3rd 4. P to K 4th 5. Kt to K 5th 6. Kt takes Kt P 7. Kt to K 2nd 8. P to Q 4th 9. Q to K 3rd 10. Q to K 3rd 11. B to Q 2nd 12. Castles 13. Q Kt to K 2nd 14. B takes P 15. Q takes B 16. Kt to Q 3rd (b) 17. Kt to Q 3rd 18. K B to Q 3rd 19. Q to Q 3rd (c) 20. P to Q 5th 21. Q to her 4th 22. Q to K 3rd (e) 23. Kt to Q 3rd 24. P takes Kt 25. K to Q 2nd

And wins the game.

(a) This move gives White at once an almost decisive advantage.

(b) He had no better move.

(c) A melancholy retreat, but he could not afford to lose another Pawn, and had no other way to prevent it.

(d) Threatening to win the adverse Queen.

(e) Again Black appears to have had no better move than to retire his Queen to this distant post.

(f) An ill-judged step. He should have thrown forward his P to K 4th, and Black would then have had a hopeless game.

(g) Again White plays without due consideration, for he might still have preserved a great superiority of position, by checking with the Kt at Q 7th, instead of exchanging pieces. For instance:—

23. Kt to Q 7th (ch) 24. K to Q 2nd 25. P takes Kt

(h) Q to her R 3rd would have been better. By checking with the Queen, he enables Black to liberate his pieces.

(i) Very finely played. Black has now fairly turned the tables on him.

(j) This was imperative; for, if he had taken the K Kt, Black would have won his Queen by playing B to K 3rd, &c.

(k) Mr. Heydebrand plays all this termination admirably.

(l) This exposes his King too much. He should rather have retired the King to Kt sq. In that or any other case, however, Black would still have had a manifold advantage.

(m) After this coup White's game is beyond retrieval.

(n) To enable him to bring the Rook to bear against the adverse King and Queen.

CHESS ENIGMAS.

No. 856.—By E. B. C., of Princeton.

White: K at his 7th, Q at her sq., Kt at K 3rd, P at K Kt 2nd.

Black: K at his 4th, P's at K Kt 6th and Q 3rd.

White to play, and mate in three moves.

No. 857.—By RICARDO.

White: K at K Kt 7th, R at Q B 6th, B at K R 4th, P's at K 2nd and Q Kt 5th.

Black: K at Q 5th; P's at K 5th and 6th, Q B 2nd, and Q Kt 3rd.

White to play, and mate in five moves.

THE SNOW-STORM.—THE WEATHER.

There was another fall of snow on Thursday morning, but not to any depth. It commenced with a slight thaw, which became stronger in the morning; and the consequence was, that the streets became overloaded with melting snow and mud, to the serious impediment of the traffic. The omnibuses generally had four horses; a few had three only; and very few indeed had but the ordinary complement of two horses. Several cabs had two horses, and crawled along at a very moderate pace; as did all other vehicles, except the butcher's cart, which, despite of ice, or snow, or rain, or hail, must rattle along at an arbitrary pace which butchers' horses driven by butchers' boys can alone accomplish. Passengers coming to or going from town by rail, after encountering the perils of the journey on the iron road, had to endure great inconvenience in obtaining vehicles to bring them to their destination; and great was the chagrin and disappointment of many.

In the Parks the skaters had no opportunity of practising their favourite sport, and the little boys that must keep nearer the shore were disappointed in performing their sportive pranks, but they made up for the disappointment by pelting each other with snowballs.

The River continued impassable on Thursday except to a few burly coal barges, which presented their thick timbers to the floating ice. In consequence of the thaw, immense quantities of ice and snow floated down with the river stream, to be again driven back by the influx of the tide. The surface of the river presented an almost unbroken sheet of ice blocks covered with snow; and all river traffic, with the exception mentioned, was at a stand-still.

The stoppage of traffic in the north appears to have been almost complete on Thursday. At ten o'clock in the morning none of the mails had arrived at Liverpool. The snow was upwards of a foot deep there, and it still continued to fall. The state of the rails leaves us almost without any intelligence from the North of England.

TYNEMOUTH, WEDNESDAY, 10 P.M.—There has been a fearful gale all day. Wind due east to night. The *Elizabeth*, *Antelope*, *Anna*, of Shields; the *Amphitrite*, of London; the *Europa*, of Hull; *Arctusa*, of Blyth; *New Messenger*, of Liverpool; *Sir Robert Peel*, of Dundee; and *Elizabeth*, of Kirkwall, all came ashore this morning. All hands of the *Elizabeth* were drowned. The other crews were saved. All the vessels have gone to pieces to-night, with the exception of the *Elizabeth* and *Europa*, which are also breaking up, not a rib of them will be standing in the morning. A schooner, named the *Union*, has just come ashore; her crew were taken off by the South Shields life-boat. A schooner is supposed to have been ashore at Hartley after dark, and it is feared that all her crew were drowned. A large fleet got in this morning. Fourteen vessels are reported ashore at Sunderland; crews saved. We are looking for more disasters during the night. The ships are protected from wreckers by armed policemen. The *Sir Robert Peel* was a fine bark, from Valparaiso. Some silver she had on board had been got on shore.

On Monday night a violent gale of wind prevailed along the whole of the south coast of Devonshire; and in the neighbourhood of Dawlish, two vessels—both belonging to Exmouth—were stranded, and have since become total wrecks.

The railway traffic between Havre and Paris was completely obstructed by the snow on Tuesday, and no train reached Paris from that place, but the line from Rouen to Paris was open. The arrival of the trains from Brussels and the north of France had also been much retarded in their progress, but the line was not completely obstructed. Between Douai and Lille the snow was so deep on the line that the directors of the company found it necessary to apply for the assistance of the troops in garrison at the former place, which was promptly given.

So much snow has recently fallen in the country near the upper part of the Seine, the Marne, the Yonne, and the Aube, that serious alarm is felt at the probable effect of a sudden thaw; and the proprietors of land in the neighbourhood have been recommended to take the necessary precautions for guarding against the injurious consequences of such an occurrence.

The thermometer at Toulouse on the 3th ult. stood as low as 14 degrees. On the same day it was at 7 degrees at Marseilles and at Nimes, and 8 degrees at Montpellier. As to the north of Europe, a letter from Dirschau, 28th ult., states that the ice on the Vistula and Nogat is so strong that carriages can cross those rivers. In Paris the frost entirely ceased on Wednesday, and was followed by continued rains.

LETTERS from Madrid of the 30th ult., state that the cold increased daily, and had been intolerable during the previous three nights. All the fountains of the public walks and the pond of the Retiro were frozen, and the ice over the latter was sufficiently strong to allow the amateurs of skating to indulge in that amusement.

LATEST BETTING AT TATTERSALL'S ON THURSDAY EVENING.

OAKS.—4 to 1 agst Medora (1). Nothing further done.

MONETARY TRANSACTIONS OF THE WEEK.

(From our City Correspondent.)

Notwithstanding that there have been numerous rather large sales of Money Stock, and that the accounts from Turkey are of an unsatisfactory character, the fall in the quotations during the week has not been more than about three-eighths per cent—the lowest figure having been 93 for the Three per Cents for the Opening. There has been a full average supply of money in the Exchange. In Lombard-street the demand for it has continued steady, yet first-class Bills have been discounted at from 4½ to 5 per cent.

In the year just concluded, the extreme range of Consols was 10½ per cent against 5½ in 1852. On the 1st January, 1853, the stock of bullion in the Bank of England was £20,527,662; it is now about £15,800,000; at the Bank of France, the total at the beginning of the year was £20,450,000; but it is now only £12,700,000. The Board of Trade tables for the month ending the 5th ult., show most satisfactory results, the comparative increase in our exports being £1,595,730. The total value of shipments during the first eleven months of the year was £80,784,515, against £65,280,134 in the corresponding period in 1852. The increase, therefore, is equal to 24 per cent.

The South Sea Company have issued a notice to the effect that the directors are ready to make advances on the security of South Sea Stock, at the rate of 100 per cent., to such proprietors as may give three days' notice to the cashier. The rate of interest is to be four per cent; and the reason why the notice has been issued is, that the directors cannot divide the £3,662,784 now being paid off by Government without a special Act of Parliament.

The commercial bills falling due on the 4th were well and generally met, although, in some cases, owing to the stoppage of the mails from the effects of the severe snow storm, the remittances were not received till a late hour.

On Monday, Consols opened at 93½, and closed at 93½ ex div. for the 18th January. The Three per Cents Reduced were 94½ to 94½; and the New Three-and-a-Quarter per Cents, 94½ to 94½. Bank Stock was 217½. The Unfunded Debt was rather active, at 7½ to 10½. India Bonds sold at 2½ to 5½. The Market, on Tuesday, was very flat. The Three per Cents Reduced were done at 93½ to 93½; the Three per Cents for the Opening, 93½ to 93½; and the New Three-and-a-Quarter per Cents, 94½ to 94½. India Bonds were 4½, prem., par., to 5½, prem.; Exchequer Bills, 5½, 5½, 10½, prem. Bank Stock was marked, on Wednesday, 215. The Three per Cents Reduced, were 93½ to 93½; Consols for Account, 93½; and the New Three-and-a-Quarter per Cents, 94½ to 94½. The Market, on Thursday, was very inactive. In prices, however, no material alteration took place. The Three per Cents for Account were first done at 93; but they subsequently became rather firm, and closed at 93½ to 94½ ex div. The Three per Cents Reduced were 93½ to 93½; and the New Three-and-a-Quarter per Cents, 94½ to 94½. Exchequer Bills were steady, at 7½ to 10½; and India Bonds, 1½ to 5½, prem.

All Foreign Bonds have met a very dull market; in many instances quotations have ruled almost nominal. Brazilian Old Five per Cents have been 99; Danish Three per Cents, 84½; Dutch Two-and-a-Half per Cents, 63½ ex div.; Ecuador Bonds, 4½; Grenada One-and-a-Half per Cents, ex div., 1849, Coupon, 20; Ditto Deferred, 7½; Mexican Three per Cents, 24½; Portuguese Four per Cents, 40½ to 41½ ex div.; Russian Four-and-a-Half per Cents, 94½ to 95 ex div.; Spanish Old Three per Cents, 44½ ex div.; Ditto New Deferred Three per Cents, 21½ ex div.

Miscellaneous Shares have met a dull market, and prices have ruled rather lower:—London Chartered Bank of Australia have been 15½; Crystal Palace, 6½; Scottish Australian Investment, 2½; South Australian Land, 36½ ex div.; Berlin Waterworks, 1½; East London, 130; Grand Junction, 73; West Middlesex, 113; Southark and Vauxhall, 89½; Albion Insurance, 95; Globe, 144 to 143; Guardian, 59½ to 59; Imperial Fire, 375; London, 30; Phoenix, 186; Sun Life, 65; Australian Royal Mail Steam, 2½ to 3; Canada Six per Cent Bonds, 112; Peninsular and Oriental Steam, 66 to 63.

The imports of species, this week, have amounted to £430,000 from Mexico, and 440,000 dollars from New York—325,000 of the latter being destined for Havre. The shipments are £120,000 to the Continent, and £235,900 to India, China, &c.

The market for Railway Shares has been in a very quiet state, without sales of magnitude. Prices have been kept tolerably steady, though their tendency has been to decline. The following are the official closing prices on Thursday:—

ORDINARY SHARES AND STOCKS.—Ambergate, Nottingham, and Boston Junction, 4½; Bristol and Exeter, 35; Caledonian, 62½; Dundee, Perth, and Aberdeen Junction, 84; East Anglian, 42; Eastern Counties, 12½; East Lancashire, 64; Great Northern, 84; Great Western, 87; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 64; London and Blackwall, 8; London and North-Western, 102; Ditto, Eighth, 1½; London and South-Western, 76; Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, 21½; Midland, 61½; North

British, 26½; Shrewsbury and Birmingham, 57½; South-Eastern, 59½; York, Newcastle, and Berwick, 63½; York and North Midland, 46.

SHARES LEASED AT FIXED RENTALS.—East Lincolnshire, 141.

PREFERENCE SHARES.—Caledonian, 100½; East Anglian, 44; Eastern Counties, New Six per Cent Stock, 13½; Great Northern, Five per Cent, 119; Ditto, Redeemable at Ten per Cent prem., 108; Ditto, Four-and-a-Half per Cent Scrip, 103; Lancashire and Yorkshire, Six per Cent Stock, 142; Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton, 103.

FOREIGN.—East Indian, 23½; Grand Trunk of Canada, 6½; Hamilton and Toronto, 10; Luxembourg, 104; Ditto Railway, 64; Ditto, Guaranteed, 42; Northern of France, 34½; Southern of France, 94.

In Mining Shares scarcely any business has been doing. Linares have sold at 11; Santiago de Cuba, 8½; Yuba, 8.

Friday Afternoon.

The Consol Market has been rather inactive to-day. In prices, however, no material change has taken place. The Three per Cents for the Opening are 93 to 93½; the Three per Cents Reduced, 93½; and the New Three-and-a-Quarter per Cents, 94½. Foreign Bonds and Railway Shares are dull.

THE MARKETS.

CORN EXCHANGE (Friday).—Fresh up to-day the arrivals of English wheat were on a very limited scale, and the show of samples of both red and white was trifling. Owing to the closing of the inland navigation rendering it impossible to deliver, the amount of business done was limited, nevertheless factors were very firm, and ready buyers were compelled to pay an advance of from 1s. to 2s. per quarter on Monday's prices. The import of American wheat has been good, yet the sale for all kinds was steady, and prices were fully 1s. per quarter higher. Floating cargoes were held at a rise of 2s. per quarter. We were very moderate in supply with barley, which sold steadily, at 1s. per quarter more money. Malt was in good request, and is dearer. We had a good demand for oats, at 6d. per quarter more money. Beans and peas were held at enhanced rates.

ARRIVALS.—English: wheat, 1160; barley, 2550; malt, 3520; oats, 1180; flour, 1040. Irish: barley, 730; oats, 13,750. Foreign: wheat, 19,000; barley, 510; oats, 2400; flour, 27,930 bushels.

English.—Wheat, Essex and Kent, red, 6s. to 7s. 4d., ditto, white, 6s. to 7s. 4d.; grinding barley, 3s. to 4s.; distilling ditto, 4s. to 4s. 6d.; malt, 4s. to 4s. 6d.; Lincoln and Norfolk malt, 4s. to 4s. 6d.; brown ditto, 6s. to 6s. 4d.; Kingston and Ware, 7s. to 7s. 4d.; Chevalier, 7s. to 7s. 4d.; Yorkshire and Lincolnshire feed oats, 3s. to 3s. 6d.; potato ditto, 1s. to 1s. 6d.; Youghal and Cork, black, 2s. to 2s. 4d.; ditto, white, 2s. to 2s. 4d.; tick beans, new, 4s. to 4s. 6d.; ditto, old, 4s. to 4s. 6d.; grey peas, 4s. to 4s. 6d.; mangle, 4s. to 4s. 6d.; white, 6s. to 6s. 4d.; bolton, 6s. to 6s. 4d.; quarter. Town-made flour, 6s. to 7s.; Suffolk, 5s. to 5s. 4d.; American, 3s. to 4s. 6d. per barrel.

Seeds.—There is rather more doing in clover seed, at full quotations. In other seeds very few transactions have taken place.

Lined.—English, sowing, 3s. to 3s. 6d.; Baltic crushing, 4s. to 4s. 6d.; Mediterranean and Odessa, 5s. to 5s. 4d.; hempseed, 3s. to 3s. 6d.; per quarter; Coriander, 10s. to 15s. per cwt.; brown mustard-seed, 10s. to 12s.; white ditto, 15s. to 18s.; and tares, 7s. 6d. to 8s. per bushel. English rapeseed, £20 to £24 per last of ten quarters. Lined castles, English, 4s. to 4s. 6d.; to 4s. 6d.; ditto, foreign, £20 to £21 10s. per ton. Rapeseed cakes, 4s. 6d. to 4s. 10s. per ton. Canary, 6s. to 7s. per quarter. English clover-seed, red, 6s. to 6s. 4d.; ditto, white, 6s. to 8s.

Bread.—The prices of wheaten bread in the metropolis are from 10½d. to 11d.; of household ditto, 9½d. to 10d. per 4lb. loaf.

Imperial Weekly Average.—Wheat, 73s. 6d.; barley, 39s. 4d.; oats, 25s. 6d.; rye, 47s. 5d.; beans, 46s. 9d.; peas, 50s. 3d.

The Star Weekly Average.—Wheat, 71s. 9d.; barley, 39s. 8d.; oats, 25s. 6d.; rye, 47s. 5d.; beans, 46s. 9d.; peas, 51s. 10d.

Tea.—Our market is rather active, and the quotations have an upward tendency. Common sound Congou has sold at 1s. 2½d. per pound.

Sugar.—All raw qualities move of freely at an advance in the quotations of from 6d. to 1s. per cwt. Good yellow Barbados, 3s. to 3s. 6d.; crystallized Demerara, 3s. to 4s. 6d.; good to choice Mauritius, 3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d.; refining India, 3s. to 3s. 6d.; grained white Muscovado, 3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d.; mid. to fair yellow, 3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d.; ord. to good white Muscovado, 3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d.; good grained yellow, 3s. to 3s. 6d.; per cwt. Refined goods are firm, at from 4s. to 4s. 6d. per cwt. The total clearances last year were 5,600,000 cwt., against 5,195,312 ditto in 1852.

Coffee.—A steady business is doing, and prices are on the advance. Good old, native Ceylon, 6s. to 6s. 6d. per cwt.

Rice.—About 35,000 bags have changed hands at an advance of 2s. per cwt.

Provisions.—The butter trade is rather dull; but the only change in prices is a decline in the value of the best foreign, of 2s. per cwt. Bacon is in request, at 1s. to 2s. more money. Lard and hams are firm; but other kinds of provisions are dull.

Tallow.—This article is steady, at 59s. 6d. to 59s. 9d., both on the spot and for forward delivery. Town tallow, 58s. 6d. net cash; rough fat, 3s. 5d.

Oils.—The general demand is active, and prices have an upward tendency. Turpentine is steady. British has sold at 56s.; American, 55s. per cwt.

Spirits.—There is only a moderate business doing in rum, yet holders are firm in their demands. Brandy moves off freely, at a rise of 1d. per gallon. British-made spirits have advanced 3d. per gallon.

Hay and Straw.—Meadow hay, £3 5s. to £3 12s.; clover ditto, £4 0s. to £4 10s.; and straw, 16s. to 18s. per 1000 lbs.

Potatoes.—The supplies continue tolerably good, and a steady business is doing, as follows:—York Regents, 12s. to 17s.; Scotch, 9s. to 10s.; foreign, 7s. to 12s. per ton.

Hops (Friday).—About an average business is doing in most kinds of hops, at Monday's currency. Very few imports have taken place this week. Mid and East Kent pockets, £14 0s. to £17 17s.; Walsall of Kent, £10 5s. to £12 12s.; Sussex, £10 0s. to £13 0s.; Foreign, £7 0s. to £9 0s.

Cattle (Friday).—Biddell, 34s.; Eden Main, 34s.; Hilton, 35s.; Lambton, 35s.; Stewart's, 35s.; Hunt Hall, 34s.; Braddell, 34s.; Kellon, 35s. per ton.

Smithfield (Friday).—The supply of beasts in to-day's market was very moderate as to number, and deficient in quality. Prime breeds moved off steadily, at full prices. Otherwise, the best trade was in a sluggish state, at barely Monday's currency. With sheep we were fairly supplied. The trade was by no means active, yet we have no change to notice in prices. Calves, the supply of which was limited, moved off slowly, at late rates. In pigs comparatively few transactions took place. Milch cows were sold, at from £14 to £18 5s. each, including their small calf.

Poultry.to sink the offal:—Coarse and inferior breeds, 3s. 3d. to 3s. 4d.; second quality ditto, 3s. 6d. to 3s. 10d.; prime large oxen, 4s. 0d. to 4s. 6d.; prime Scots, 4s. 4d. to 4s. 10d.; coarse and inferior sheep, 3s. 6d. to 4s. 0d.; second quality ditto, 4s. 2d. to 4s. 4d.; prime coarse-wooled ditto, 4s. 4d. to 4s. 10d.; prime South Down ditto, 4s. 0d. to 4s. 4d.; large coarse calves, 4s. 2d. to 4s. 6d.; prime small ditto, 4s. 10d. to 5s. 4d.; large hogs, 3s. 4d. to 4s. 2d.; neat small porkers, 4s. 4d. to 4s. 10d.; suckling calves, 2s. to 2s. 6d.; and quarter old store pigs, 2s. to 2s. 6d. each. Total supply: Beasts, 963; cows, 120; sheep, 4400; calves, 120; pigs, 300. Foreign: Beasts, 212; sheep, 330; calves, 60.

Newgate and London (Friday).—About an average business was transacted in each kind of meat, as follows:—

Per ribs by the carcass:—Inferior beef, 3s. 0d. to 3s. 4d.; middling ditto, 3s. 6d. to 3s. 10d.; prime large ditto, 4s. 0d. to 4s. 2d.; prime small ditto, 4s. 2d. to 4s. 4d.; large pork, 3s. 6d. to 4s. 2d.; inferior mutton, 3s. 4d. to 3s. 10d.; middling ditto, 4s. 0d. to 4s. 6d.; prime ditto, 4s. 6d. to 4s. 10d.; veal, 4s. 0d. to 4s. 6d.; small pork, 4s. 4d. to 4s. 6d.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, DEC. 30.

BANKRUPTS.

T. EASTGATE, Churton-street, Pimlico, boot and shoe-seller. J. DAVIS and S. DAVIS, East Smithfield, clothiers. B. VINCENT, Canterbury, boot and shoe-maker. W. COBB, Malden, builder. T. W. THAME, Greenwich, ironmonger. W. LEGG, Windsor, wine-merchant. D. PRATT, Aston, Birmingham, thimble-maker and metal-roller. T. BULL, Bristol, ship-owner.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

W. ANGUS and Company, Royston, Fifeshire, engineers, ironfounders, and millwrights. Mrs. L. CRAIG, Glasgow

THE CORPORATION OF LONDON.

THE CITY BRIDGES.

The bridges of London, or at least some of the bridges of London, are structures of which the authorities are justly proud; and it was with no small amount of satisfaction that they heard uttered the high encomium attributed to Canova, that if London contained no other attraction, the Strand-bridge (now called Waterloo-bridge) would amply compensate for a journey of a thousand miles. London-bridge is another of those noble works which demands the highest approbation. The question, however, which we desire to discuss is not whether some of the bridges are not a credit to the metropolis, but whether we have a sufficient number to properly accommodate the immense traffic desiring to cross the river. However important and useful to a large city a tidal river may be, it is nevertheless an immense inconvenience to those residing on its banks; preventing, as it does, that free communication, so important to all classes, but more especially to a mercantile and trading community. Whatever interferes with the immediate fulfilment of an object desired, is an evil which those who have the power ought to remedy without delay. Before scientific minds had conceived a plan for carrying a roadway over a river, the only plan by which the difficulty could be overcome was by boats of the rudest character, constructed of the bark of trees, or of wicker-work covered with hides. These times have long passed away; but, judging from the antipathy to the increase of bridge accommodation in London, it would almost seem as if barbaric notions, in a modified degree, still possessed the minds of the rulers of the city of London. The Government has determined on a large improvement in the bridges at the West-end, where they are less needed than in the City: wherever the population is the densest and trade the largest, there should bridges be the most numerous. It is curious to note how the Corporation of London have always opposed the building of bridges. No bridge has ever been thrown over the Thames without meeting with the determined opposition of that body. Even last year they put in motion all the machinery they could bring to bear against the Government plan for building the new bridge at Westminster. In like manner, they opposed the building of Putney-bridge—the strong argument being, that it would injure the business of the watermen; and change the current of the river, and greatly interfere with its navigation. But, the most extraordinary opposition ever persevered in, was that of the Corporation to the company which proposed the construction of Southwark-bridge. In May, 1811, the Navigation Committee of the Corporation reported "that it was proved by the most clear, distinct, and incontrovertible testimony of witnesses, that, from the strength of tide, and the extreme velocity of the current, vessels are wholly unmanageable from London-bridge to parts of the river above where the intended new bridge is to be placed; and that, in their opinion, it will be impossible for barges, and other vessels, to proceed up the river from London-bridge without the most imminent hazard of destruction from striking against the intended bridge." There is something almost grand in the decided tone of the language just quoted. Yet the bridge has been built; and the barges have not been destroyed; the dangers apprehended have not been experienced; nor has the river run itself dry, as some wise folk predicted, by the removal of the dam of the river caused by old London-bridge.

Then-a-days, as now, the leading members of the Court of Common Council always attributed personal motives, when any independent man proposed a scheme of improvement; and the opposition to the New Bridge arose chiefly because it was observed by some "that the principal merit of the scheme consisted in its becoming the means of forcing the City to take down or rebuild London-bridge."

The City was not to be cajoled or forced, and not to be caught napping. Their watch-dog, the Remembrancer of that day, was on the alert in the House of Commons, and the civic pride was roused. Their pet, old London-bridge, was to be destroyed by the innovators; and, if they succeeded in demolishing their favourite of antiquity, what would become of London—where would be its charters and its privileges? If they succeeded in this, who could tell but they might next desire the annihilation of Temple-bar; the removal of Smithfield-market; and, perhaps, seek to reform the Corporation of the City of London itself, and for ever put an end to the wonder and admiration of the world—the famed pageant of the Lord Mayor's Show? Therefore, to prevent the possibility of such a result, the safest course for them to adopt was determined opposition to everything not initiated by the favourites of their own court. For nearly twenty years they succeeded in their protection of the old and dangerous bridge, though they did not prevent the completion of the new iron bridge. The climax to the absurdity of their opposition appeared in the following paragraph, extracted from the report already referred to—"That an iron bridge will be disgraceful in appearance, compared with the other bridges" (old London, Blackfriars, and Westminster—all condemned or destroyed). "and, in the opinion of many men of science, such a bridge, of upwards of 700 feet in length, with only two bearing piers, of twenty five feet in thickness, thus subject to vibration, contraction, and expansion, cannot stand; therefore, and for other reasons therein set forth, the committee submit the necessity of continuing to oppose the bill." This they did unsuccessfully; and, although they predicted its speedy downfall, it has stood for nearly forty years; and the Corporation are desirous of buying it for the free use of the public. The record of opinions, such as those quoted, should teach men humility, and make them less prone to condemn things as impracticable, because their experience has been insufficient to enable them to arrive at truth. Some two years ago, the subject of New Bridges was brought before the Corporation of London by Mr. Bennoch, who was then a member of the Common Council. The entire project was ably discussed; and we, in common with the great mass of the public, hoped to have seen some evidence of the earnestness of the Corporation long before this. But petty squabbles seem to have obstructed the progress of the question; and now that that gentleman has left the Corporation, we suppose his plan for additional bridges will be laid on the shelf. It is, however, just within the range of possibility that now they have got rid of that, to them, troublesome person, they may, of their own accord, urge forward the questions proposed by him, and which they have hitherto opposed.

From a valuable pamphlet on the "Bridges of London," written by Mr. Bennoch—which has already been noticed by us, and which is full of interesting details—we gather that while conveyances of every kind have increased fourfold, while the population of the metropolis is larger by a million of persons, we have only had added to our bridge accommodation some ten feet of carriage-way since 1821. From various reports that have come before us, we learn that the reason assigned for delaying the question is want of means. If the question is important, means will be found. The plea of poverty by the Corporation of London is one that will not be accepted by the public. The disclosures made before the Royal Commissioners sufficiently prove that, had the Corporation the will, the way would be found. There is no city in the world so wealthy as London; and there is no city of any pretensions to power or credit possessing so little bridge accommodation as London. Paris, Lyons, Glasgow, Dublin, are a credit to their respective countries, so far as bridges are concerned; while London is a disgrace to England in that respect.

At the close of the last session of Parliament Mr. Oliveira gave notice of a motion to inquire into the Bridges of London, which it is understood will pass unopposed by Government. The honourable member has been travelling on the Continent, to make himself thoroughly ac-

quainted with the working of the Wine Duty; and, judging from his energy, we may fairly expect that the Bridges of Paris and other places will have received a due amount of attention. The evidence to be given, will, in all probability, establish the fact that, in its want of attention to the convenience of the public, the Corporation of London has, in the matter of bridges, as in the several matters referred to by us in former articles, shown itself wholly unequal to the performance of duties it had undertaken.

Every bridge on the river should be purchased and made toll-free, and other bridges should be added, without delay. The first new bridge should undoubtedly be that projected by Mr. Bennoch, near St. Paul's; because it would permit the traffic north and south to cross the river without any deviation. The improvement of the thoroughfares of the metropolis is of such vital importance to all that it might, for the information of the public, be advisable to lay down an entire scheme of alterations, which ought to be proceeded with simultaneously. Before concluding the series of articles in which we are now engaged, we shall, in all probability, give, in a condensed form, a list of such improvements as are imperatively called for. Next week we shall turn our attention to the Markets of the City, with a view to ascertain whether in that respect the arrangements are equal to the requirements of the public.

INDUSTRIAL INSTRUCTION.*

As a step towards realising the plenary education of all classes of the people, nothing of late accomplished is, perhaps, of more importance than the published "Report of the Committee appointed by the Council of the Society of Arts, to Inquire into the Subject of Industrial Instruction; with the Evidence on which the Report is Founded." This industrial application of the educational process brings it to a practical level, where its value can be appreciated by the general understanding. The object of the Committee was to ascertain "how far and in what manner the Society of Arts may aid in the promotion of such an education of the people as shall lead to a more general and systematic cultivation of arts, manufactures, and commerce—the chartered objects of the Society." The better to promote this object, they sought, first, proof of the sentiments of manufacturers on the question; and next, that of those of its advocates and students—of all, in fact, who had regarded the subject of education as a great social movement. To the circulars which they consequently issued they obtained a great number of valuable answers—amounting on the part of the manufacturers to "a decided expression of opinion as to the urgent necessity of industrial instruction;" and on the part of the various friends of education in general, to "a most cordial sympathy with their object, hope for the success of so important a movement, and regret that reform had been delayed so long." Thus, as we have suggested, the question formerly discussed on abstract grounds alone has been brought to a practical result, from which much good may be expected.

Such, then, is the stage of progress attained; and our arrival at it is no doubt partly due to the influence of the Great Exhibition on the minds of those who think. To quote the words of the Report, that Exhibition "at once showed to manufacturers their true position; it brought the truth home, not only to the well-informed few, but to the mass of our ill-instructed population." To this may be added the conviction of an intelligent foreigner, M. de Cocquiel, that "the Universal Exhibition was a great school in which every nation came to seek, from the example of others, the means of improving its own labour, its own industry; and one by which the British people have themselves been extensively benefited by the improvements which their rivals have brought to the work of production. The idea (he adds) which originated the Great Exhibition is now fructifying and developing itself in the United Kingdom, and will certainly expand to a magnificent system of industrial instruction which, I have no doubt, will, ere long, serve as a model to all the nations of the Continent."

The Committee, nevertheless, have not been blind to the unfortunate fact that "there is still, in some quarters, an unwillingness to promote industrial instruction, especially so far as the cultivation of taste in the Fine Arts is concerned." Capitalists in this country, it would appear, have preferred to pirate foreign patterns, rather than to raise at home the requisite artistic skill. This practice, to some extent, has been found profitable; but it is not without its inconveniences. Thus we are told, that the foreign pattern is frequently modified by varying the arrangement and quality of the colours—a delicate operation, sometimes left to the workmen themselves, which does not always turn out happily. "The result," says M. de Cocquiel, "is often seen in those patterns jarring in colour and absurd in form, overlaid with a multitude of incoherent accessories, from which we avert our gaze as we would stop our ears in the neighbourhood of discordant music." But the strongest point of objection to the plan is the presumed want of necessity for the kind of education proposed. Those who are unfavourable to its promotion, roundly urge that "the supply of science is always equal to the demand for it; that none of our works, either public or private, is at a stand-still because architects, engineers, or skilled workmen are not to be had; that we have attained to an eminence of commercial and manufacturing prosperity, unrivalled in any age of the world, and that all this has been accomplished without the aid of colleges of chemistry, or of schools of industrial instruction; that, whenever great discoveries were wanted, men to make them have always been forthcoming; and that improvements or discoveries in the arts and sciences are rather the accidents of a lucky chance than the elaborated results of well-directed research and scientific investigation." The Report before us has opposed to this the obvious reply, that the question is not, how this superiority has been acquired, but how it is to be retained. Besides, the result has clearly been produced in spite of the want of favourable conditions, not because of it; and should operate as an encouragement in future for the furnishing of such, as so much capital to be expended on an enterprise which has proved itself capable of an exceedingly profitable return. Nations, also, that have survived their internal convulsions, will naturally come into the market, and compete with us in the peaceful pursuits of industry, in which, from our peculiar position, we had previously got the start.

Conclusions such as these are corroborated in the Report by the expressed opinions of Mr. Disraeli, Lord Seymour, and Lord John Russell. The most forcible way of placing the subject, however, was reserved for Sir Robert Peel, who thus expressed himself:—"All the facilities of intercourse," said he, "are operating as bounties to skill and intelligence. They are shortening the distance between the producer and consumer; and it is not safe for us to remain behind-hand; for, depend upon it, if we are inferior in point of skill and intelligence, or general knowledge, to the manufacturers and producers of other countries, the increased facilities of intercourse will result in transferring the demand from us to others."

The requisite means for maintaining our superiority are not to be found in the further application of capital, which is already, from the mere fact of its superfluity, seeking to stimulate new sources of productive industry; but, in the improvement of labour, and its translation from the muscular spheres of activity to the nervous, or mental. "The whole of industrial competition," says Dr. Playfair, "is now resolved into a struggle to obtain a maximum effect by a minimum expenditure of power." The Continent, it is allowed, has been enabled to seize the growing element of production, while England is left in possession only of the decreasing one. Mental labour must henceforth receive its due encouragement amongst us, if we are to maintain our relative position in the race of nations.

In connection with this argument, we are reminded of the pressing expediency of cultivating the human faculties, in harmony with the development of the natural forces now daily discovered and applied. The so-called "imponderable" properties of matter are now summoned to play an important part in social progress. "The sun, (to quote an eloquent passage from the Report) has become a limner: the electric fluid a postman, galvanism thrusts aside the goldsmith, and chemical action dispenses with the need of mechanical agency." These discoveries render muscular energy or brute animal strength less significant and less productive than the exercise of refined intellectual power. In illustration,

the following instances may be profitably cited from the Report in *extenso*—

For example, in cotton-mills and factories, the feebler strength of women and children has supplanted the robust vigour of able bodied men, and the locomotive has driven the horse from the great lines of communication. On the other hand, an increasing amount of intellectual skill is required to guide the steam-engine, to prepare the photograph, to work the electric wire, or to manage the electrolytes. On the farm, the steam-engine supplies the place of manual labour, and agriculture is fast becoming a branch of chemistry. To meet this altered state of things, it is obvious the kind of instruction hitherto given must be modified and enlarged. The knowledge which half a century ago would have constituted its possessor a man of science, does not now suffice for the every-day working uses of the intelligent artisan. This shows that the question is not one of mere competition. Were we the only producers in the world, it would be still our interest to provide for this development of natural forces by an adequate cultivation of those powers of man which correspond to it. "Nature is subjugated only by obedience," is the maxim of Bacon. There is also another great advantage that would result from an improved instruction of this kind. Men would no longer have to pass their lives in hopeless wretchedness whenever that branch of art or manufacture, to which they happened to turn their early attention, chanced to fail, either through the change of fashion, or the adoption of improved methods of manufacture. Education would give them that versatility of mind which would enable them to turn to something else. There are none so helpless as the hand-loom weaver or the farmer's boy. Their skill is not rational, but instinctive, like that of the beaver or the bee.

Some persons may, even yet, be found who lament that the progress of civilisation tends to extinguish the ignorant and untrained; but lamentations, however just—which this is not—cannot alter the law of tendency and the fact of position. The instinct of a benevolent heart ought rather to suggest the desire that the instructed should aid their less fortunate brethren in acquiring those additional attainments which have become indispensable for their subsistence; and a practical recognition of the ever-increasing necessity for an improved education of the mind in proportion to the advance of civilisation.

A considerable portion of the Report is occupied with combating the vulgar sophism that presumes an antagonism between theory and practice, that is essential, and indeed so fatal, as to amount to an incompatibility. It is not necessary for us to dwell on such a point. Our readers are sufficiently aware that theory and practice are, in the nature of things, inseparable, and mutually help each other. The objection, indeed, may be voted obsolete, as well as fallacious. No amount of practical skill and experience can replace the want of theoretical knowledge; and this every one, who knows anything of the subject at all, knows well enough, now-a-days. That the public mind is at present so clear on this point, is in part due to the Society of Arts, which justly claims the credit of having greatly conduced to the desirable result, in its encouragement of a scientific agriculture, and the share which it had in the idea and the working out of the Great Exhibition.

Such being the facts and the argument, it becomes evident that an enlarged plan of general education for all classes is required. A merely classical education is, in these times, not enough. A mathematical and scientific education should be added, to enable the student to take an active part in the ever-variable developments of modern society. Schools of all sorts must undergo improvement in accordance with the spirit of the age. Those of the Dean of Hereford are quoted as examples. In them it is stated that the instruction is worth paying for and staying for. The great evil of popular education is the early age at which children are taken from school—an evil only to be remedied by an improvement in the rank and character of the instruction accorded. The low standard of instruction adopted, for instance, by our parish schools, has made the class just above the labourer look upon them with contempt. We must prove to the public that the instruction given in schools bears directly on the future prospects of youth; and they will then be numerous and properly attended; but not until then. To make the instruction efficient, there should be brought to bear on it the agency of a Central Board of Examiners, with power to grant certificates of merit; the appointment of which is rightly and strongly urged by the Committee.

The selfish doctrine that people should not be educated above their condition, is now an exploded error. Men exercise with pleasure any craft in which they are conscious of excellence. They like their profession, because they know it. "If," says the Report before us, "it be a wise economy in a flourishing trading establishment, or in a large manufactory, to have all the hands, and tools, and machinery, each the best of its kind, and in the most perfect working order, it surely cannot be considered too refined a policy, that this country should develop all its native force of character and strength of intellect, to the utmost perfection of which it is susceptible." New wants, too, require new means. Professions and occupations lately unknown, are now highways to fortune and respect; some of those previously recognised, have been overfilled and become unprofitable. The movement of civilisation is evidently in the line of the useful arts. Our education, it is manifest, should travel in the same direction.

We close our analysis with the practical result which the Committee have embodied in their Report, as the résumé of the facts and suggestions which they had solicited.—

To found schools for art and colleges for science, is by no means a novel idea. It has been floating in the minds of speculative and ingenious men for more than two centuries. Some of our most practical manufacturers have come to the same result, that some central institution is required which should organise, assist, and advise local institutions throughout the country. We believe the following outline would, to a great extent, include their several plans:—

That a central institution be established in London or Manchester, or in some other convenient locality. That, on the plan of the London University, it should admit into union with it, colleges, mechanics' institutions, schools, and even private seminaries; that the conditions of affiliation should be few and simple; that, like the London University, it should hold examinations, not, however, in London only, but throughout the provinces also. Unlike the London University, it should not only examine, but teach. It should be its especial duty to train masters as teachers of science, so far as it bears on industrial instruction, and not teachers only, but those also who intend to follow other occupations. They believe it better that there should be no separate school for teachers, but that all should be instructed together, as in our older universities and their colleges, of which this has been represented to us as a truly admirable feature. We do not mean to imply by this that teaching should not be taught as an art. Experience has established the principle, that to teach knowledge is an art, itself requiring to be taught. It has its own general principles, and specific rules founded on these principles. The central institution to have attached to it exhibitions or scholarships to reward those students who, at the local examinations, should distinguish themselves, to enable them to receive a higher kind of instruction. The examinations in the provincial districts would enable the examiners to select the élite of our youth, who would thus be in a position to perfect those studies they had so worthily begun. This is a brief sketch of some of the suggestions we have received.

A central institution of this kind would not only be well adapted to advise with and assist the present local institutions, but also to aid in the setting up of new ones. Even the mere establishment of the central institution would encourage the formation of others in the provinces, independent of it, yet looking up to it for advice and assistance.

So far, so good. But, in the cause of plenary education for all classes, something more remains to be said. In order effectually to teach the people, education must be made attractive. Dry knowledge, cultivating the memory at the expense of the mind, is not sufficient. This has been found to be the case with Mechanics' Institutes; and they have, accordingly, been turned into places of amusement rather than of instruction. In that sphere they will perform an important duty. But a higher aim will be required for an Educational Institute; and in order to realise it, an improved method of teaching must be adopted, which shall lead to the facts of science a life capable of commanding an active sympathy. The circle of learning must, in fact, be extended, and learning itself must be popularised, not by being deteriorated, but by enlargement and elevation.

All real and permanent improvements of the kind have proceeded in this way. The art of printing, which has given to the poor man cheap books, was a higher art than that of writing, which it superseded; railway travelling is a more scientific system than was that of stage-coaches on the high-roads. An eloquent writer, in enforcing these or similar views, has aptly remarked that "the arts of education that will summon the people to learn, are *loco calco* different from, and greater than, those which have been sufficient for the schools. A petty magnet (he adds) is sufficient to take up a few hundreds of isolated persons; but, when the nations are to be attracted, there is nothing less than the earth that will draw their feet."

This matter of Universal Education, therefore, will require the fullest application of the highest philosophical intelligence to direct it, in its complicated bearings and various relations, to the most successful issue. Theory and practice must unite; low and narrow views must be carefully repudiated; while the loftiest principles and the most generous motives should be not only sedulously conciliated, but permitted to rule with absolute power, as the legitimate initiatives of every plan proposed for adoption, and the ultimate tests of its prospective advantages and its probable fitness for the growing wants of modern society—as ambitious in its objects as ceaseless in its progress.

* "Report of the Committee Appointed by the Council of the Society of Arts, to Inquire into the Subject of Industrial Instruction; with the Evidence on which the Report is Founded." London: Longman, Brown, Green, and Longmans.